



# TIMES

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Volume 22 Number 7

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

February 2, 2007

## Appointment provokes outcry

The January 19 issue of *The Seven Lakes Times* reported that Westside recreation director Betty Milligan had pulled her name from the list of six candidates seeking one of three seats on the association's board of directors.

In the two weeks since that issue appeared, the Seven lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] has lost another candidate and gained a director.

President Jim Meikle announced at the start of the Association's January 23 general meeting that the board had voted in a recent work session to place former Board President Bill Mamel in the Architectural Review [ARC] Director seat vacated by the resigna-

tion of Mike Finney.

That decision prompted the resignation of candidate Dale Erickson, who had submitted his name for the ARC Director slot. [Erickson explains his decision to withdraw in a letter on page 27; Milligan expresses more fully her decision in a letter on page 26.]

The decision to return Mamel to the board also generated considerable outcry in the community at large, as evidenced both by public comments during the general meeting and by an outpouring of letters to the editor in this edition of *The Times*.

Perhaps most notable among those who chose to speak out against the board's decision

(See "Appointment," p. 19)

## SLLA revamps meeting format

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors almost never votes on anything in its regular, end-of-the-month General Meetings. Business is conducted in an afternoon work session a week earlier. Few landowners attend the work sessions; instead, they attend the General Sessions to hear what the Board has been up to and provide input.

All that, it appears, is about to change.

In a rare General Session vote, the SLLA Board on Wednesday night, January 31, approved a motion by Director Ed Nuti to hold evening work sessions on the second Wednesday of every month and to hold their votes on motions and resolutions until the end-of-month

General Session.

As Nuti explained this new procedure, the work sessions would be used to explore and debate matters that come before the board. Board members would then have a couple of weeks to think proposals over before casting a vote in the General Session.

Nuti previewed the idea in a column in the January 19 edition of *The Seven Lakes Times* and said he had received nearly fifty phone calls and emails in support of the idea. It played to mixed reviews among his fellow board members, however, passing in a four-to-three vote, with Nuti, Jeff Herman, Ron Richmond, and Jack Fathauer in favor and Don Truesdell, Steve

(See "SLLA," p. 22)

## Rodeo sweetheart



**Champion Barrel Racer Codi Baucom** was the featured speaker at Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club recently. Baucom, a Moore County native, is one of the top riders in the world. She is shown here with Kiwanis President Gerry Buelow and Program Chairman Chad Beane.

## Record crowd turns out for Candidates' Night

Nearly two hundred landowners filled the Great Room of the West Side Park Community Center on Tuesday night January 30 for a Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] candidates forum sponsored by the Women of Seven Lakes.

It was the largest attendance for a landowners association candidates forum that *The Times* can recall, perhaps reflecting the strong degree of interest in the current West Side elections, which now features four candidates vying for three open seats on the Board.

Both current Board member Betty Milligan and challenger Dale Erickson have withdrawn from the race, leaving Jim Haggard, Kathy Kirst, Ed Tuton, and current Board president Jim Meikle on the field.

Pud Kent, representing the League of Women Voters of Moore County, served as moderator for the Candidates Night, which was conducted using standard League procedures. Candidates were given a list of six questions in advance, additional questions were taken in writing from the audience, and the time that each candidate

had to answer questions was limited.

Candidate Kathy Kirst was unavailable because of a weeks-long Florida vacation scheduled months ago. Former SLWLA Legal Director Bud Sales read Kirst's prepared answers, and, where possible, provided answers to questions from the audience based on what she had written in advance.

The moderator first asked the candidates to provide information about their background and how that background qualified them for service on the Board.

(See "Candidates' night," p. 35)

# West Side looking at a dues increase

The controversy that erupted over the appointment of former Seven Lakes West Landowners Association President Bill Mamel to the Board of Directors was not the only business done in the Tuesday, January 23 General Meeting.

Members also learned that the Board is proposing a \$35 dues increase and that proposed length and horsepower limits for boats on Lake Auman are going back to the drawing board.

Lake and Environment Director Mary Anne Fewkes said she had received a number of emails on the boat size limits, which

were developed by the lake management team. In addition, Bud Sales and Jim Haggard held a

what we do want to do is to plan for a growing community."

Dave Carter asked whether any members of the lake management team are skiers.

"A lot of the boats that can pull skiers have V-8s and have horsepower," Carter said. "But they are geared low. Horsepower doesn't coordinate with speed."

Fewkes invited Carter to join the ad hoc committee that will review the rules.

**Finance.** Treasurer Virgil Reid said the board is seeking a \$35 due increase for the coming fiscal year and projecting a \$1,141,000 revenue budget. That represents an increase of \$88,400 over this year's budget.

The plan of fiscal year 2007-2008 does not envision any increase in reserves. While the budget calls for putting \$166,000 into reserves, the board is planning expenditures — including

additional paving on Lakeway Drive — that will more than offset that contribution.

A resident asked whether the board planned to move its maintenance functions in-house, rather than hiring outside contractors to mow road shoulders and the like.

Reid said the board believes it could save money by handling maintenance in-house, but doing so will require a sizable upfront investment in equipment.

"The board doesn't believe this is the year to make that investment," Reid said.

Betty Milligan said research that she and Community Manager Tony Robertson did on the check registered identified more than \$250,000 in annual maintenance expense.

"We really would save the community money" by moving maintenance in-house, she said. "I hope that boards in the future

will look at this."

**Infrastructure.** Ray MacKay reported that Pee Dee Electric will be burying some of its overhead power lines along Longleaf Drive from Teague to Fox Den. The work is expected to occur in February or March.

Bids are in and money is being collected from the various financial participants who will contribute to the paving of White Drive, MacKay reported.

**Recreation.** Betty Milligan said the Association has acquired practice tennis balls and baskets for use by members. They are available to be checked out at the Community Center.

## West Side Landowners Meeting

1/23

forum in which the proposed rules were discussed by Lake Auman Sports Club members and other interested Westsiders.

"We have decided that we need to go back to the drawing board," Fewkes said. "We don't feel we are ready to go back to the board for a vote."

Fewkes said the lake management team would be meeting with an ad hoc committee of interested parties to take another look at the proposed rules.

One idea, she said, is to apply the same length and horsepower limits across all types of boats — sailboats, pontoons, and speedboats.

Maureen Meade objected to proposed horsepower restrictions, saying she is concerned that the restrictions will harm recreational use of the lake and thereby undermine property values.

"Since the day I moved in, I just keep getting privilege taken away, privilege taken away, privilege taken away," Meade said.

"I don't think anyone wants to take away the recreational value of the lake," Fewkes replied, "but

### CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 4307 Seven Lakes Plaza, mailed to P.O. Box 602, West End, NC 27376, faxed to 910-673-0210, or e-mailed to [thetimes@ac.net](mailto:thetimes@ac.net).

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111 and our website is at [www.seven-lakestimes.net](http://www.seven-lakestimes.net).

### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
Feb 16	Feb 9
March 2	Feb 23
March 16	March 9
March 30	March 23
April 13	April 6
April 27	April 20
May 11	May 4
May 25	May 18
June 8	June 1
June 22	June 15
July 6	June 29
July 20	July 13
August 3	July 27
August 17	August 10
August 31	August 24
Sept 14	Sept 7
Sept 28	Sept 21
Oct 12	Oct 5
Oct 26	Oct 19
Nov 9	Nov 2
Nov 21*	Nov 15*
Dec 7	Nov 30
Dec 21	Dec 14

\*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

## Kiwanis Bingo

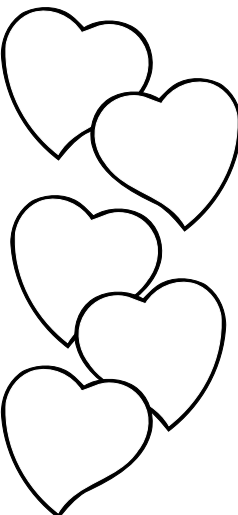
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# Young locals training at Parris Island

by Laura Douglass

Eric Meares, Joseph Hogan, and Thomas Paulson have many things in common — foremost, the decision to spend the early months of this new year at Parris Island, South Carolina, for Marine Basic Training camp.

Eric, 19, son of Brian and Susan Meares of Jackson Springs, and Joe, 19, son of Bruce and Elaine Hogan both of Seven Lakes North, met in Kindergarten at West End Elementary.

This morning, the two young

men awoke for another day of education not with crayons and recess but as bunkmates. Beginning their training the last week of December, they will spend thirteen weeks at Parris Island before continuing three more weeks of Marine Advanced Training together at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina.

Upon completion of Marine Occupational Specialty training in accounting, Joe will return to NC State University, where he has completed one semester of college, and join the Marine

Reserves. Joe is an avid rugby player and was the captain of both his local team and the 'Under 19' NC Youth Rugby prior to joining the NC State team where he is a starter. As a freshman, Joe played in every game and helped lead the team to win the club team state tournament.

Bruce Hogan told *The Times*, "Joe is a first-generation American." Bruce and Elaine are both British nationals. "His mother and I are very proud of his decision to serve in the United States military."

Bruce continued, "While playing in the local rugby team, Joe competed against military teams and made many friends." In particular, Joe's teammate and friend Andy Cordelle, who joined the Marines last Spring, made a strong impression and helped influence Joe's decision to join.

"We've been getting letters every two to three days but the letters are getting shorter because he is so busy," Hogan said. "Joe never met a stranger and is getting along just fine."

Eric Meares, another young recruit influenced by his friendship with Andy Cordelle, will head to California for Marine Occupational Specialty training

in communications. Upon completion, he will remain on active duty. After witnessing Andy, his friend from both church and school, graduate from Marine Basic Training last year, he told

his father, "I'm ready."

Eric spent this past Fall semester studying at Sandhills Community College and is a Second Degree Black Belt at Goshin Dojo, where he also was Sensei-Dai, an assistant instructor.

Brian Meares told *The Times*, "I am honored as a parent that he has made this decision. Eric is a born-again Christian and is in the Lord's care. His mother and I spoke to the recruiter, and, though initially scared, we realize this is a good thing for him. His letters seem upbeat and I think he is enjoying himself."

Thomas Paulson, 17, is an academic year behind Eric and Joe in school and delayed entering the Marines until he completed his high school diploma. While the Marines will accept a

(See "Marines" p. 4)



Joe Hogan and his father Bruce



Eric Meares



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## Marines

(Continued from page 16)

GED diploma, Thomas knew the Corps would view a standard education more favorably. Thomas opted, however, to speed up the process by graduating early at mid-year. He left last Sunday afternoon for Parris Island.

As an ROTC student during all four of his years at Pinecrest High School, Thomas has long been interested in military serv-

ice. "I feel obligated to my country; it has given so much to me that I feel the need to give back. There is no more patriotic service than to enlist."

Thomas' visits with ROTC classmates now in the Marines, including Cordelle and Timothy May, contributed to his decision. "I was very interested in their experiences," Paulson said.

Major Steve Smith, a twenty-

year Air Force veteran and an ROTC instructor at Pinecrest said, "We encourage our students to matriculate into college or a military academy but some who chose active military have come back to speak and offer a clear picture to current students.

They come back from Iraq and talk to them."

Thomas intends to complete Marine Occupational Specialty in artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and go on active duty.

His father John told *The Times*, "This is what he wanted and

you support your children in whatever endeavor they choose."

He continued, "I'm not worried, Thomas has a good head on his shoulders, the best training available, and he will come back home fine."



**Major Steve Smith, of the Pinecrest ROTC program, with Nancy and John Paulson and their son, Thomas.**

## Civic Group convenes Feb. 13

On Tuesday, February 13, at 7:30 pm, the Seven Lakes Civic Group will hold its annual meeting at the Seven Lakes West Community Center. Everyone is encouraged to attend and learn more about what is going on in your community, what is going on in the county, and most important learn what is going on in the county that impacts your community.

Dave Kinney, President, will give an overview of the Civic Group's activities in 2006 and Dennis Roberts will present a detailed update on the Seven Lakes water supply and usage, plus a general outline of the County's plans for water in 2007.

Cary McSwain, Interim County Manager, and the County

Commissioners have been invited to attend as guests and time will be available on the program if they have items to share at the meeting.

Mainly because of its growth, there is a lot of activity centered around Seven Lakes that requires good planning. Since Seven

Lakes is not incorporated, the Civic Group is the primary link between the community and the county decision makers. Come out and support the Civic Group so they can support you with county management. Your comments and questions are welcomed.

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7 Lakes West (Lake View)	
148 Otter Drive.....	\$69,000
7 Lakes West (Lake View)	

## Who's SELLING at SEVEN LAKES?



# McKay's office ready for next 20 years

The sign on the side of Dr. Pete McKay's building says "Family Dentistry."

It's a simple phrase, but it expresses something very important to the Seven Lakes dentist.

It goes back to when McKay was a student at the School of Dentistry at UNC-Chapel Hill. In order to learn their craft, each student provided dental care to

a group of patients.

"Our professors called those people our 'family of patients,'" McKay told *The Times* recently. "I do feel like the people who come to my practice are a family of sorts. Every time, when they come back to see us, I want them to feel like we treat them as part of our family."

That sign on McKay's building is new, as is almost everything

inside the building. The practice has just completed a major renovation that more than doubled the size of their office.

Early in Dr. McKay's practice in Seven Lakes Village, he shared the building with Seven Lakes Eye Care, owned by Dr. Barry Kavanaugh. Kavanaugh built a new building on Seven Lakes Drive last year, and Dr. McKay has expanded his dental office to take up the entire building at 120 Grant Street.

The renovations began with a new roof, followed by new windows, and then a two-part reconstruction of the interior.

The remodeling included adding two operatories, bringing the total from four to six. A larger waiting area; expanded break room and laundry facilities; and more storage for patient records were also added.

In addition, Dr. McKay told *The Times*, nearly 98 percent of the equipment has been replaced.

This staff kept working right through the renovations, McKay told *The Times*. "We pretty much

gutted the new side first, then moved over to the other side. That allowed us to still have an office that was functioning."

McKay's entire staff helped develop the floor plan for the remodeled office, and that collaborative, hands-on approach shows in the finished product. The facility is functional, comfortable, and inviting.

New cabinetry made of light woods and warm colors create an overall sunny and a cheerful impression in the dental office.

That cheerfulness will soon be even further enhanced by the addition of photography, paintings, and other artwork created by local artists, selected from among the practice's patients.

"All of the operatories are fully outfitted," McKay added. "I can do just about anything in any of them. We've remodeled and updated everything so that we can provide state-of-the-art dental care — and have room for more patients."

McKay told *The Times* that his

is a broad spectrum general dental practice. "I do a lot of things that enter into specialty areas that I have extra training in," he said. "I do a pretty large amount of oral surgery, and I do root canal therapy. And, of course, we call in specialists when they're needed."

McKay started his practice in Seven Lakes 20 years ago, on July 1, 1986. "I've been telling folks that this renovation is getting us ready for the next 20 years," McKay said.

For McKay, that sign on his building that says "Family Dentistry" has another meaning.

McKay welcomes young children as patients, something that is increasingly rare among dentists.

He told *The Times* that he prefers to begin seeing children when they are six months to one year old, which is what is recommended by the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentists.

(See "McKay" p. 7)



**Dr. Pete McKay shows off artwork by John Baumgartner — one of many pieces by McKay's patients that are featured on the walls of his remodeled dental office.**



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# February 16 is Project Linus Blanket Day

On Friday, February 16, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Bookshop by the Lakes and The Coffee Scene will host a Project Linus Make a Blanket Day workshop.

The mission of Project Linus

is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer “blanketeers.”

Participants dropping off a completed blanket, quilt or afghan, checking out a blanket kit, or donating materials or funds for Project Linus will receive a coupon for a free cup of coffee

courtesy of The Coffee Scene. Bookshop by the Lakes will have quilting books on display and a special prize drawing.

Regular workshops are scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, and Tuesday, February 20, from

9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Fleece is available, flannel blanket and quilt kits are packaged and ready for check-out.

Please call Pat Weber at 673-1457, if you have questions or would like to make a donation.

## McKay

(Continued from page 6)

“It’s so much better to see a child early on,” McKay told *The Times*. “When they’re young, children have a much greater tolerance of something new.”

“That’s where it all starts,” he added. “I have a lot of kids that I have treated since they were knee high. It’s one of the things that I’m most proud of.”

“I enjoy all types of dentistry — and all types of patients — but if I can help the kids to grow up with a better understanding about dentistry, they’ll have better dental health for their entire lives.”

“The focus of our practice,” McKay told *The Times*, “is simple: dental health. Especially over the past few years, it’s become even more evident how important a role dental health plays in the overall health or lack of health of the individual. We see our job as the provision of dental services to improve a person’s health.”

McKay’s advertisements always feature the phrase “we cater to cowards.” Explaining that, he told *The Times*, “I feel I can work with a patient until they are comfortable with dentistry. A lot of times they just need someone who is willing to talk with them and explain what is going on.”

“When patients can get over their fear of dentistry, they have a sense of accomplishment, and they come away from our office feeling better about themselves.”

“Dentistry is not an event — a cleaning, a filling, an extraction — it’s a process that lasts throughout your life,” McKay said.

Dr. Pete McKay’s family dental practice is always happy to see new patients, he told *The Times*. The newly renovated dental practice is located at 120 Grant Street in the Seven Lakes Business Village. The phone number is 910-673-0113.

## THROUGH JIM MEIKLE’S LEADERSHIP OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS AND MANY HOURS OF THE ENTIRE SEVEN LAKES WEST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION BOARD’S LABOR AND EFFORTS, THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED!

- Frequently acknowledged the efforts of the many dedicated volunteers who support the numerous committees that work for the benefit of the entire community
- Established the “Wall of Honor” for members who have contributed exceptional service to our community
- Expanded communication to members by establishing a SLW Web site, with “Breaking News” on the homepage
- Established school bus pick up and drop off at our Community Center
- Established County Bookmobile service to our Community Center
- Continued to improve the amenities at West Side Park
- Made acoustical improvements to the Community Center’s Great Room
- Established a book sharing library in the Community Center
- Planting privacy screening between the Swimming Pool area and the McDonald’s Truss Plant in West Side Park (contract in progress)
- Enhanced the Community Recreation programs for members of all ages
- Established a Community 4th of July Fireworks show
- Established the Lake Auman Master Plan Committee
- Established rules and regulations regarding the operation of jet boats and other types of water craft on Lake Auman
- Made improvements to Johnson Point’s swim raft, dock, picnic areas and restrooms
- Entered into an agreement with NCWRC which preserves our private lake status and our ability to self regulation the rules and regulations on Lake Auman
- Supported the programs and acknowledge the dedication and improvement for Lake Auman and Johnson Point brought about by the Lake Auman Sports Club efforts
- Expanded our Boat & Trailer storage area
- Continued on the multi year project to improve the drainage and landscaping in Lakeway mall
- Established “Adopt a road” programs to help enhance the appearance of are community
- Prepared and distributes up dated “Seven Lakes West Handbooks” to all homeowners
- Completed “Development Agreements” for Carriage Park III, Colton’s Corners and First Fairway subdivisions
- Acquired addition land at NC 73 gate area for future Association needs
- Up date of our “Architectural Standards”
- Established the position of “Compliance Officer” to assist with rule & regulations and architectural control standards
- Convinced the County and State that home on Lake Auman do not belong on the State’s Flood Plain maps
- Engaged the Insurance and Personnel committees to review our policies and practices
- Established a “Profit & Loss Budget Performance” and “Fund Status” reporting systems to more fully display accounts activities
- Established a Yard Waster Transfer Station site for SLW
- Convinced Ray MacKay to run for a second Board term and continue providing his engineering and maintenance expertise on the community’s infrastructure problems
- Hired Security Forces, Inc. to up graded and provide 24/7 gate security



**REELECT JIM MEIKLE TO THE SLWLA BOARD**  
**PAID FOR BY FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF JIM MEIKLE**

*Submitted by Ray MacKay*

# In memory of . . .

**Lessie Myrick**, 96, of Beacon, NY, died Wednesday, January 17.  
 Mrs. Myrick was preceded in death by one grandson.  
 Mrs. Myrick is survived by her daughters, Audrey Stewart of

Beacon, NY, and Cynthia Carter of Seven Lakes; and her son, Roger Myrick of Seven Lakes; and three grandchildren.  
 The funeral service was held on Wednesday, January 24, at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church,

19 South Ave, Wappinger Falls, NY. The Rev. Dr. Edward L. Hunt officiated.  
 Announcement courtesy of Bostic-Kendrick Funeral Home of Southern Pines.

**Eleanor Francis Anderson**, 79, of Foxfire Village, died Thursday, January 18, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.  
 Mrs. Anderson was born in Cranston, RI, to Horace and

Corinne LeBlanc Davis. She was a graduate of Cranston High School and lived in Warwick, RI, for over thirty years. She retired from Citizens Bank in Pawtuxet, RI, after twenty years  
*(Continued on page 9)*

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**HILLTOP ESTATE!** Dream home on 3.5 acres w/20 x 40 pool w/waterfall, pool house w/bath & storage rm; 34 x 36 Barn-Workshop. 4000+ sf, 4BR/3.5BA, 18' clgs. in Fam. Rm & Foyer, 2 story stone fplc, hdw floors w/granite inlays and lots of 7' arched windows on back overlooking covered porch & pool. Owner/Broker **\$575,000**



**LOVELY, LIKE-NEW 2 STORY ON CORNER LOT!** With 5 BR's and 3.5 baths, this west-side home offers quality throughout. Oversized rooms to incl.: large eat-in kitchen, LR, DR, Master suite on main level. Relax outside on the front porch or the rear deck that overlooks the swimming pool. Beautifully landscaped, great location & price!  
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**FABULOUS VIEWS OF 4TH GREEN, POND & FAIRWAY FROM THIS GOLF FRONT ON SLCC!** Over 2,400 heated sq. ft., open floor plan, 3 BR, 3 BA, living rm, dining rm, Sun Rm plus walkout basement with lots of room for entertaining. 2 fpl, basement workshop, new appliances, lots of storage, deck & patio . . . . . **\$239,000**



**SUPER SEVEN LAKES RANCH!** Lovely home on large lot with-golf views. Spacious rooms to include three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, living room, dining room, family room, large Master suite. Beautiful wide-planked hardwood, new roof, new tile backsplash & more.  
 . . . . . **Listed at \$195,000**



**GOLF FRONT BEAUTY ON 4TH HOLE OF SLCC!** — Situated on a double lot and barely lived in. A functional split-BR plan with no wasted space and many fine features, large family rm. with French doors leading to light & airy kitchen with solid surf. tops, hardwood in main areas, ceramic tile, 9 ft ceilings, screen porch & more. **A super home listed at \$225,000**

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**PINWILD NEW CONSTRUCTION- GOLF FRONT ON 1.5 ACRES!** — On Hobkirk cul-de-sac, new home offers quality in construction & design. Spacious floor plan features: 3 BR, 3BA (all suites), upstairs bonus rm & 1/2 bath, 3 fpl, scrn porch, 2 car garage, golf cart storage. Call for plans & spec. Ready Spring '07. **\$570,000**



**SEVEN LAKES SOUTH NEW CONSTRUCTION- JUST STARTED!** Affordably priced & situated on a large corner lot. A split-bedroom plan with oversized rooms to include 3 BRs, 2 baths, living room, kitchen/dining combo, Carolina rm, 2-car garage, plus a storage room off garage.  
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# In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 8)

as a CSR. She was active with the Southern Pines Senior Citizens organization. She participated and was a champion in the Senior Olympics.

Mrs. Anderson was preceded in death by her husband of fifty-eight years, Earle Edward Anderson.

Survivors include her daughter, Linda Anderson Baltzer of Lincoln, NH; a grandson, Jeffrey Baltzer of Boston, MA; a brother, Charles E. Davis of Warwick, RI; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Foundation, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374.

A private burial service will be conducted at a later date.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

**William Creighton Pope**, 88, of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, January 20, at his home.

Mr. Pope was a Navy veteran of World War II. He was a graduate of Manhattan College and received his Master's degree from Columbia University. He taught public school in New York City for many years.

Mr. Pope was preceded in death by a daughter, Clair Marie Pope.

Survivors include his wife of sixty-four years, Eileen C. Pope; a son, William J. Pope of Seven Lakes; a grandson, two great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to FirstHealth Hospice, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374 or to Seven Lakes EMS, 969 Seven Lakes North, West End, NC 27376.

A memorial Mass was held on Saturday, January 27, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pinehurst. The Rev. James M. Labosky officiated.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

**Simon Michael Diggs**, 45, of Jackson Springs, died Tuesday, January 23, at his home.

Mr. Diggs was born in Moore County to the late Luke Diggs and Hattie Scott Diggs. He was a textile worker.

He was preceded in death by three brothers and one sister.

Mr. Diggs is survived by six sisters, Sally Gibson and Essie Simmons, both of Hamlet, Hattie Ratliff of Rockingham, Virginia Bowden and Annie Jones, both of Jackson Springs, and Millie A. Legrande of Candor; and six brothers, Luke Diggs of High Point, John Diggs of Ashboro, and John Thomas Diggs, Robert Diggs, Daniel Diggs and Jake Diggs, all of Eagle Springs.

The funeral service was held on January 28, at Antioch Church of God in Candor. The Elder William B. Townsend Sr. officiated. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery in Candor.

McLendon Funeral Home of Ellerbe served the family.

**Willie Ruth Little**, 63, of West End, died Saturday, January 27, at First Health Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Little; a daughter, Saber Jones; two sons, Kenneth Jones and Charles Jones; four brothers, Melvin Jones, Jessie Jones, Frank Jones and Henry Jones; six sisters, Clara Rouse, Leola Spruill, Betty Hair, Carrie Jones, Mary White, and

Shirley Smith; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held February 1, at Love Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, West End. Burial was at the church cemetery.

Purcell Funeral Home is handled the arrangements.

**William Ray Tabor**, 67, of Seven Lakes, died Sunday, January 28, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

He enjoyed his childhood in rural Logan, WV. He was a Wake Forest University varsity football player and a member of the Sigma Pi Fraternity, and served in the Coast Guard service, and spent his career in sales.

Mr. Tabor is survived by his wife of forty-five years, Robin Shahan Tabor; four daughters, Tracy Tabor Mitchell of Austin, Texas, Kristen Tabor of Cary, Kellie Tabor-Hann, of Middletown, RI, and Kimberly Lane Kreitlow of Apex; brothers, Robert Tabor and Larry Tabor; his sisters, Donna Kincaid and Lynn Burgess; two grandsons, and two stepgrandsons.

A memorial service was held

Tuesday, January 30, at Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Logan County Charitable and Educational Foundation, PO Box 1367, Logan, WV 25601.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is served the family.

**Doris G. Miller**, age 78, of Seven Lakes died Tuesday, January 30, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Born in Plainfield, NJ to the late Robert and Katheryn Bennett Gildersleeve, she was a 1949 graduate of the New Jersey Col-

lege for Women. For many years, she worked as a Home Agent with the New Jersey State Extension Service and then with the Internal Revenue Service. She and her husband moved to Seven Lakes in March, 1987.

A memorial service will be held today, Friday, February 2 at 2:00 pm at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Seven Lakes. Burial will follow in Seven Lakes Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Doris Miller Memorial Fund, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church or the Seven Lakes EMS.



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# Gorenflo Law Firm grows into a new office

He may have been born in New York, but you'd be hard-pressed to find more of a native Seven Laker than Mike Gorenflo.

So this Seven Lakes attorney is doubly proud that his hometown has been so supportive of his young law firm - supportive enough that the Gorenflo Law Firm, PLLC, just moved into a spiffy new office on Seven Lakes Court.

Gorenflo's building is tucked into a cul-de-sac just off North Trade Street, just across the way from the Carolinas Golf Association.

The building was formerly home to one of the offices of the Sandhills Center for Mental Health, and Gorenflo completely overhauled the inside before moving in the members of his staff.

He purchased the building from longtime Seven Lakes accountant Elaine Yow Girgis, whose Seven Lakes Drive office backs up to Gorenflo's new building. Work on the new facility started immediately after closing, Gorenflo told *The Times*.

"We started renovations immediately," he said, "and got the job done and just eight weeks." Martin Hovland — construction manager for BVH Construction, was the contractor on the job.

Another local firm, KR Mace Electric, handled the electrical work on the building.

The remodeled facility includes offices for Gorenflo and Bob Bierbaum, the other lawyer in the firm, as well as their respective assistants Julie Hendricks, and Marsha Burrows. The office includes a sizable reception area, a full kitchen and break room for the staff and lots of storage. Also included are two separate conference rooms - Gorenflo pointed out that this setup is particularly useful in mediation, when the attorneys must consult independently with their clients in order to reach resolution of a dispute.

The new office totals 2800-2900 square feet, a sizable step up from the 1800 square feet that the Gorenflo law firm occupied in Peachtree Center on Seven Lakes Drive.

After graduating from law school at NC Central in Durham, Gorenflo knew that he wanted to return to Seven Lakes. He came

back to Moore County in 1999 and opened a Seven Lakes office for the Webb and Graves Law Firm. After about a year with that firm he opened his own practice in January 2001, starting with just himself and a part-time office manager as staff.

Hendricks joined the firm in

September of 2002; Bierbaum, in June of 2003. As the firm grew it expanded from one to two and then to three units in the Peachtree Center building.

When he started his practice in Seven Lakes, Gorenflo told *The Times*, he focused on tax and estate planning. "It was obvious

at the time that there was demand in Seven Lakes for real estate-related legal services," he said. So Gorenflo added that suite of capabilities to his practice.

As his practice grew Gorenflo saw more and more people coming to the firm needing assistance in business formation and other business related services.

Later, he recognized that he was referring a significant amount of business outside of Seven Lakes - traffic cases, civil

litigation, employment law, and criminal representation. "That's when I started trying to bring in a second attorney, Gorenflo told *The Times*. "I feel if you live in Seven Lakes, this is a big enough community that you should be able to go down the street to get the legal services you need, rather than having to drive through the traffic circle."

And the firm may not be finished growing yet; Gorenflo said

(See "Gorenflo," p. 11)



**Gorenflo Law Firm** — Bob Bierbaum, Mike Gorenflo, Marsha Burrows, Julie Hendricks, and Nicole Farris.

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# 7 Lakes GOP meets Feb. 22

The annual Seven Lakes Republican Precinct meeting will be held at the Seven Lakes Fire Department building on Thursday, February 22, at 3:30 pm. Registration will begin at 3:00 pm.

Currently there are 1,840 registered Republican voters in the Seven Lakes Precinct, nine short of being the second largest Republican precinct in the county.

In conformance with the Party's Plan of Organization, attendees at this meeting shall elect Precinct Officers consisting of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and as many Members-At-Large as deemed necessary to conduct the business of the Precinct. Members of the Precinct Committee shall hold

their offices for two years or until their successors are chosen. There shall be no proxy voting, but you can contact Precinct Chair Brenda Parks at 673-9781, before the meeting if you can't attend.

In addition to electing the Precinct officers, attendees must select nineteen Delegates and nineteen Alternates to attend the County Convention which is to be held in Carthage at the Old Courthouse on Saturday, March 24, at 2:00 pm. Please arrive before 1:45 pm.

This year's County Convention is extremely important as officers for the County Republican Party will be elected. All registered Republican voters in the Seven Lakes Precinct are encouraged to attend.

## EMS telephone books available

Get your copy of the new 2007 EMS Seven Lakes Phone Directory at the Seven Lakes North Landowners Office or the West Side Community Center.

The cost is only \$6. Proceeds from the directory benefit the Seven Lakes Volunteer EMS.

# Gorenflo

(Continued from page 10)

he sees a need for an attorney who focuses on estate administration - helping to clean up and work through estate issues after someone passes away. "That tends to be a highly specialized field," Gorenflo said. "I'm looking for someone who can fill that role in this community."

Gorenflo and his wife Lisa live in Seven Lakes West; she is a fourth grade teacher at West End Elementary School.

Bierbaum and his wife Ann Benton also live in Seven Lakes West. Bierbaum is originally from Delaware and taught in the Laurinburg public schools before going on to law school. Like Gorenflo, he attended North Carolina Central.

"I think it helps both Bob and me a lot that we both worked in other industries, worked for other people, and went back to law school after having other careers," Gorenflo told *The Times*, "rather

than going to law school straight out of college without a lot of life experience."

Gorenflo moved to Seven Lakes with his family when he was fourteen, a time when there weren't very many young people in Seven Lakes.

"Seven Lakes is really important to me," Gorenflo told *The Times* "from the very beginning I always felt welcome here, it was great place to grow up."

"I decided in 1999 that I was going to come back here, and that this is where I am going to stay. I decided I needed to be my own boss and do my own thing. And the community has been very, very supportive."

"I wasn't born here," Gorenflo told *The Times*, "but I never felt like I was from anywhere else."

The new Gorenflo Law Firm office is located at 105 Seven Lakes Court, just off North Trade Street. The phone number is 673-1325.



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### 7 Lakes West 116 Baker Circle



4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths,  
All Brick Home  
\$398,000

### Foxfire 2 Sunset Lane



4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, All Brick  
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### 7 Lakes West 112 McCracken Drive



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### Foxfire 4 Cummings Court



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# Thieves come up empty at Coffee Scene

The Moore County Sheriff's Office is investigating a breaking and entering and larceny at the Coffee Scene in Seven Lakes.

The shop's glass door was broken late Saturday night, January 27. A report filed by Officer Paul Brady said the would-be thief or thieves broke the door in order to gain entry to the shop — apparently looking for cash.

The crime scene was dusted for fingerprints and Moore County detectives are expected to interview suspects in the case.

## Lockwoods celebrate 50th

The family of Colonel Bob and Marty Lockwood would like to announce the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of their parents on February 15.

Bob and Marty, originally from Greenwich, Connecticut and Columbus, Ohio, met and married in Miami, Florida while Bob was stationed in Opalocka at the Marine Corps Air Station and Marty was a stewardess with Eastern Airlines.



Marty and Bob Lockwood in 1947

The perpetrators made off with the coin tray from the cash register and a small cash box, but their haul amounted to only \$18.50.

Damage to the door, on the other hand, was valued at \$450.

Nothing was taken from Bookshop by the Lakes, which occupies the same building as the Coffee Scene.

The Sheriff's Office was alerted to the crime when a local resident reported seeing the broken glass early Sunday morning.

Anyone with information concerning the crime or the perpetrators is encouraged to call the Moore County Sheriff's office at 947-2931.

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<b>12</b> Corn Chowder Soup  Baked Spaghetti Dinner	<b>13</b> Split Pea and Ham Soup  Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	<b>14</b> Crab & Shrimp Bisque  Pot Roast Dinner (Order Early!)	<b>15</b> Mushroom & Wild Rice Soup  Crab Cake Dinner (Order Early!)	<b>16</b> Manhattan Clam Chowder  Pork Dijonnaise Dinner
<b>19</b> Tomato Florentine Soup ♥  Shepherd's Pie Dinner	<b>20</b> Black Bean Soup  Broccoli Manicotti Dinner ♥	<b>21</b> Potato Leek Soup  Chicken Enchilada Dinner	<b>22</b> Beef Vegetable Soup ♥  Pecan-Crusted Tilapia Dinner (Order Early!)	<b>23</b> Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo  Chicken Tetrazzini Dinner
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# New owners at Tracy's

Tracy Moore has been selling and installing carpet in Seven Lakes for thirty years, and now he's decided to hang up his carpet knife, turning his business over to Steve and Jill Snow of Seven Lakes West.

The Snows are no strangers to customers at Tracy's Carpets: Steve has been installing for Tracy for nearly nine years and Jill has been working in the show room for two years.

"We're well acquainted with Tracy's customers," Jill Snow told *The Times*.

And the Snows have already begun to expand the business in order to meet their customers' needs. The shop, long the choice of Seven Laker for all kinds of flooring, is now offering both Holland House furniture and Shaw area rugs.

"Now folks will have the option to shop for these items right here in town," Jill Snow said. "That way they won't have to go outside Seven Lakes to find what they need."

Tracy's Carpets offers a wide selection of floor covering: carpet, wood, permastone, vinyl, and laminate. They handle everything but tile, Snow told *The Times*, and they carry all major brands in each of those surfaces.

The shop has long been known for its selection of wood flooring — thought by many to be the largest wood selection in Moore County.

"A lot of stores have only one or two brands," the Snow told *The Times*. "We have eight or nine different brands on the floor — and have even more that we can draw on."

"We have a great selection, and we have great relationships with all the major manufacturers," Snow said.

Snow was working at a rest home when she heard that Tracy had an opening. "I'd never done this kind of thing before. It was all new to me."

But according to Moore, Snow "is a real natural."

"It's all about patience," he added. "Every customer is different. I like to greet them when they come through the shop and figure out what sort of service they are looking for."

"If people want to browse we leave them alone," Snow said. "If

they need help, we can provide a lot of information about our products."

Moore told *The Times* that he has enjoyed his career in the carpet business. "I've met a lot of people. There are a lot of good people in this area — they've been wonderful."

Tracy's Carpets was one of the first businesses in Seven Lakes. A native of Robbins, Moore had done work for Seven Lakes developer Fred Lawrence.

"Fred talked me into coming down here," Moore said, "and I've never regretted that I took his advice."

Moore has laid carpet from

Key West to Niagra Falls and as far West as Colorado. He told *The Times* that — having finally retired — he now plans to spend a lot more time fishing.

The Snows have six installation crews, which helps make sure that they can keep up with customer demand.

"We treat our customers with a lot of care," Snow said.

"We want make them happy — that's what our job is. We can be more personal than a big store can."

Tracy's Carpets is located at the corner of North Trade and Grant Streets in Seven Lakes. The phone number is 673-5888.



**Jill and Steve Snow join Tracy Moore** in celebrating the Snow's acquisition of Tracy's Carpets in Seven Lakes.

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## 20 RIDGE ROAD, FOXFIRE

Beautiful New Construction In Foxfire. Four bedroom, three bath Home is Very Spacious: Private Master, Fourth bedroom & Media Room on Upper Level, fireplace in Great Room with Hardwood Floors, Nice Deck Off Back Great for Entertaining! **\$294,500.**

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## 5174 JAMES DRIVE – 7 LAKES WEST

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## 5173 JAMES DRIVE – 7 LAKES WEST

New Construction, Three Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, Split Plan, Single Level with Upstairs Bonus Room, Two-Car Garage,

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## 107 WHITE DRIVE – 7 LAKES WEST

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Nice screen porch on back. Call Gene today!  
Act fast, this home is priced to sell! **\$357,500**



# Goshin Dojo builds character with karate

For Sensei Tim Smith it's about more than karate. Or, perhaps better put, karate training is about more than punches, kicks, and jabs.

For Smith and his wife Erica, who own Goshin Dojo Family Martial Arts Studio in Seven Lakes, the core of karate training is about building character and instilling a set of values.

Perhaps that is why, after just five years in Seven Lakes, the Smiths have seen the ranks of Goshin Dojo students grow from nothing to more than 100.

The Dojo's young students, in particular, thrive on the atmosphere of discipline and respect that Tim and Erica create.

"We have eight core values that we teach," Sensei Tim told *The Times*.

"The top three are courtesy, integrity, and perseverance — above all, perseverance."

The other values that Smith focuses on are patience, respect,

humility, loyalty, and gratitude. Teaching and reinforcing that set of values is as central to the curriculum at Goshin Dojo as balance, power, and speed.

The Smiths recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of their studio with two well-attended functions for their students and students' families:

- A reunion that brought together most of the 28 black belts that they have graduated since opening the Dojo in 2001, and
- A family appreciation night — a way of thanking the many families whose children — and moms and dads — fill the Dojo's classes.

Sensei Tim told *The Times* that many of the studio's black belts still participate in classes. "A lot of people see a black belt as a finish line," he said. "But ours have hung around and gone on to be second degree

(See "Goshin Dojo" p. 16)

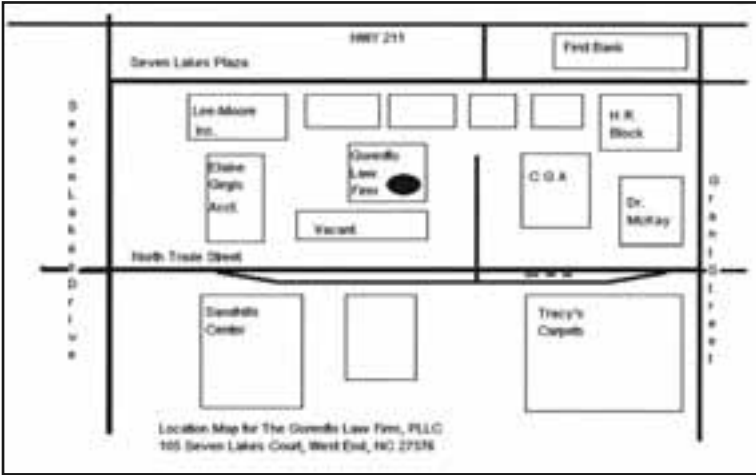


**Goshin Dojo** recently brought together most of the 28 black belts the martial arts studio has graduated in its first five years. Row 1: Sensei Tim Smith, B. Goodwin, R. Harvey, S. Marley, J. Strong, D. Burrell, D. Cleveringa, Sensei Erica Smith. Row 2: J. Purvis, E. Owens, B. Gehrung, B. Owens, C. Baldwin, S. Purvis. Row 3: D. Tapia, S. Shute, J. Tapia, K. Bounds, M. Lowe, B. Sheard

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# Goshin Dojo

(Continued from page 15)

black belts third degree black belts and so on."

Smith said he was particularly proud of two Seven Lakes black belts who have recently moved on to the next stage in their personal careers: Eric Mearnes has joined the Marine Corps and is in boot camp at Parris Island. Frankie Tapia is getting ready to start classes at the University North Carolina - Wilmington.

The Smiths make a point of knowing their students and their students' families. "We know all one hundred of them by name, we know their moms and dads, and we know how they are doing in school," Sensei Tim told *The Times*.

Goshin Dojo's classes are not just for kids, Sensei Erica told *The Times*. Though 80 percent of the Dojo's karate students are under the age of 18, the oldest karate student is 57. The Smiths are considering offering a Seniors class in the future.

Nor are the Dojo's class offerings limited to karate. Five Kick-Fit classes every week attract eighteen regulars and a number of occasional drop-ins who enjoy the high energy approach to fitness offered by the Smiths. Kick-Fit classes meet Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings, as well as on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Both Tim and Erica Smith teach at the Dojo, and they bring complementary skills to the task. Sensei Tim told *The Times* that his classes focus on balance and power, while Sensei Erica focuses more on precision. Erica joined the Dojo as a full-time instructor in July, leaving a post in accounting at Sandhills Community College.

The Dojo opened in 2001 with 2,100 square feet in Seven Lakes Plaza Shopping Center. Two years ago they moved to their current location in the shopping center that also houses Subway. They now have 4,400 square feet with two separate studios — one upstairs and one downstairs

— in the complex.

In addition to his work at the Dojo, Sensei Tim teaches martial arts classes for the physical education department at Sandhills Community College. He is currently teaching a class for Moore County Public Schools Resource Officers — the law enforcement presence in the public schools.

Sensei Tim explains his approach to teaching in this way: "We're not in the business of teaching karate. We use martial arts training to help people solve problems."

"As we're teaching our students how to punch and kick, we're also trying to insert these seeds of values into their brain. We use their success in karate as a way of talking about success in other disciplines, for example, in school or in their relationships with their classmates

and family."

Smith says the Dojo's training also focuses on self-defense. "We teach them to beware of their surroundings," he told *The Times*.

"We teach them how to scan, how to watch their back, how to move around in their environment, and what danger signs to look for."

"We let them make their mistakes in here so that they don't have to suffer the consequences out in the world. We give them actual tactics to use. We try to put it their level."

Goshin Dojo's approach to martial arts training has won many fans among the families in Seven Lakes, but the Smiths are the first to admit that it's not necessarily for every one.

"When someone comes to me and asks me about karate for their kid, the first thing I ask

them is about their goals for their son or daughter," Sensei Tim told *The Times*.

"We found out that our goals have to match — the parents goals and our goals have to match. We try to make sure that happens."

For that reason, every student's experience at Goshin Dojo begins with a trial period. "We put every one through an introductory program to make sure that we are good fit for them and they are good fit for us, Sensei Erica told *The Times*.

The introductory program costs \$49.95 and includes a complete uniform and two weeks of group

classes.

At first students start out with karate classes twice a week. As their skills develop, they can come to more classes, "but we don't want to get them burned out," Sensei Tim told *The Times*.

Goshin Dojo karate studio is located at 4355 NC Highway 211 in Seven Lakes - in the same shopping center as a Subway.

Karate classes are offered six days a week, and Kick-Fit classes meet five times a week. Folks interested in getting started at the Dojo can call Tim or Erica Smith at 673-5370.



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Commercial Lot #101 - **SOLD**  
Lot #913 - **SOLD**  
Lots #2510/11/12/13 -  
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111 Sandham Court -  
New Listing  
118 Sandham Court -  
New Listing  
417 Longleaf Drive -  
New Listing  
162 Cardinal - **SOLD**

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#2407 - Reduced - \$22,500  
#2211 - SLCC 15th - \$25,000

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#215/220 - Double - \$30,000  
#2388 - Under Contract - \$16,500  
#2459 - Nicely Treed - \$21,000  
#2474 - Great Slope/Wooded - \$20,000

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#2510/11/12/13 -  
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# Golf Capitol Chorus offers singing valentines

If you are looking for the ultimate in romantic gifts for your loved one this Valentines Day – look no further. The Golf Capital Chorus is making quartets of the Chorus available as Singing Valentines for lovers throughout the Sandhills!

Quartets will come to homes, places of business, churches, hospitals, senior citizen residences, and restaurants. In fact, anywhere you want them to

appear. The quartets will sing two romantic love songs and present the recipient with a rose, a note from you, and a box of chocolates for Valentines. They will also supply Kleenex for the tears!

The quartets will be conducting the Singing Valentines program on February 13 and 14, this year. To schedule a quartet for your loved one, simply call Dick Curl at 215-9796 or e-mail him at dickcurl@earthlink.net.

The cost is only \$40. All money raised by the Golf Capital Chorus goes to local Sandhills charities. Members of the Chorus are extremely proud of the fact that since the Chorus began, it has raised nearly \$200,000 for charity through its annual concert, the Singing Valentines Program, Annual Singing Garage Sale, and appearances at numerous events in the Sandhills.



Treat your Valentine with a gift she or he will remember forever this Valentine's Day. You can have a quartet just like this one show up to sing to your loved one this year.

# Beyond the draft — next 7 Lakes Forum

Steve Bouser, editor of *The Pilot*, is the featured speaker for the Seven Lakes Forum in February. He will present the topic entitled "Why Not Require National Service of Youths?"

The lead sentence of his editorial reads, "Revive the military draft? Heck, no. That doesn't go far enough." Need we say more about his presentation?

The Forum is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, on the upper level of the West Side Park Community Center. Refreshments will be available at 9:00 am, with the formal session and presentation beginning at 9:15 am. A break will be held at 10:10 am with speaker-participant dialogue following.

Participants should plan for a two-hour session. All women and men from Seven Lakes, and their guests, are invited to attend.

For further information, please contact Don Welch 673-6701, or Bill Mamel 673-8970.

The next Forum, on March 15, will be a discussion of Americans for a Fair Tax.

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# Appointment

(Continued from front page)

were four board candidates: Erickson, Kathy Kirst, Jim Haggard, and Ed Tuton. All four signed a letter objecting to the board's appointment of Mamel and expressing concern that the board's decision betrayed a lack of confidence in them, the candidates, on the part of current board members. Haggard read the letter during the public comment section of SLWLA's general meeting. [It is reproduced in full on page 24.]

"Your action has sent a signal to the community that the slate of new candidates is not qualified nor desired as members of 'your' board," Haggard read. "We, the candidates, find your flagrant disregard of common courtesy troubling. Frankly, we consider your position that we are not good enough to serve on the board a personal insult."

Haggard told *The Times* later in the week that both he and Erickson had contacted the board suggesting that the replacement for Finney be chosen from among the four candidates not already serving on the board — that is, Haggard, Erickson, Kirst, and Tuton.

In their statement, the candidates argued that the board should either have selected one of them to fill the post or have waited until after the election and filled the vacant board seat with the fourth highest vote getter.

They pointed out that a vacancy on the board was filled after the 2006 SLWLA elections by naming the fourth highest vote getter to the post. That's a reference to the appointment of candidate Jo Nicholas — currently the board secretary — to fill out the on expired term of Laud Pitt, who had resigned from the board for health reasons.

Unlike Finney, however, who resigned in mid-November, four months before the annual meeting, Pitt left the board immediately after the conclusion of the 2006 elections, making the parallel inexact.

Asked about this difference in timing, Haggard told *The Times* he was not aware that Pitt had resigned after the election.

Much as the candidates were surprised by the board's unwillingness to appoint one of them to the empty board seat, so

SLWLA President Jim Meikle seemed surprised that the candidates were offended by the board's decision.

Meikle said during Tuesday night's General Meeting and then reiterated later in a conversation with *The Times* that the majority of the Board felt that placing a candidate in the seat would amount to interfering in the election itself.

Insulting the candidates "certainly was not the intent," Meikle said during the meeting. "We didn't feel that interfering with the election or selecting a person from among the existing candidates was the right thing to do. It was not intended as an insult to the candidates, and we are certainly sorry that the candidates feel that it was."

In announcing the board's decision to seat Mamel, Meikle called attention to the former Board President's background in surveying and drafting, as well as in the development of curriculum in the building trades. Mamel was President of a technical institute for a portion of his career. In addition, Meikle

reported, Mamel wrote the architectural standards for the Chelsea Woods Association, a homeowners association in Minnesota that Mamel also served as Board President.

The four other members of the SLWLA Board who supported the appointment of Mamel — Hugh Beckwith, Ray MacKay, Jo Nicholas, and Virgil Reid — have released a statement explaining their decision in this issue of *The Times* [See page 25].

They argue that Mamel not only had the technical qualifications to lead the ARC committee, but that he had, through previous service on the board, "the analytical, level-headed, collaborative, and open-minded traits required of a board member at-large."

In addition, they suggest that "a number of critical issues for the community, particularly those requiring developer collaboration, need resolution and action now" — action that can be accomplished only with the ARC leadership position filled.

The four call for a halt to what

they characterize as "incivility" in the community debate over these issues: "The personal, inflammatory, and baseless attacks perpetrated upon Jim Meikle and Bill Mamel at the General Session are extraordinary and indefensible . . . Only the people responsible can extinguish the poisonous climate of incivility and suspicion that has overtaken our community."

Meanwhile, board member Betty Milligan charges in her statement printed in this edition of *The Times* that incivility has been the hallmark of board work sessions recently. She alleges "shouting, defamation of character, foul language, and insults,"

and says that the Board's leadership failed to bring the meetings under control despite repeated requests for action.

Supporters of Jim Meikle purchased an advertisement in this issue of *The Times* detailing the progress that the community has made while Meikle has been at its helm.

Westsidiers had a chance to hear firsthand from the four remaining board candidates a forum held on Tuesday night; nearly 200 landowners turned out for the event [See our report on page 1.]

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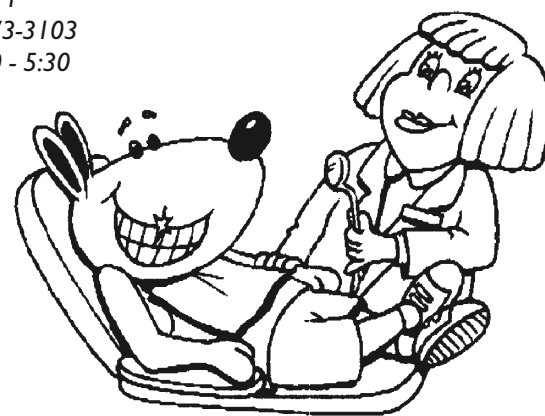
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## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- **Church Women United of Moore County Meeting** – 10:00 am, Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Southern Pines. All women interested in joining are welcome.
- **Big River - the Story of Huckleberry Finn** – 7:30 pm, Sunrise Theatre in Southern Pines. Moore OnStage brings this true American folk tale to life on the Sunrise Stage with this musical adaptation of Mark Twain's masterpiece. Tickets \$18 adults and \$10 students. Call the box office at 255-0667. The show continues through February 11.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- **Kiwanis Bingo** – 7:30 pm at Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Gameroom. \$300 Jackpot. Bring a friend or two for lots of fun.
- **The Ghost of Mark Twain** – 7:30 pm, Sunrise Theatre in Southern Pines. Moore OnStage presents McAvoy Layne as "The Ghost of Mark Twain." Tickets \$20 Call 255-0667.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series "Presenting Mr. Frederick Douglass: His Life and Times"** – 7:30 pm, Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College campus, Pinehurst. To kick off Black History Month, this one-man show featuring actor Fred Morsell is free and open to the public with no tickets required. Call 245-3132 after 6:00 pm.
- **Project Linus Workshop** – 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Looking for a new project in 2007? Come join the fun! The group will be making blankets for children in need in Moore County. Fleece will be available, flannel blankets, and quilt kits will be packaged for check-out and completed blankets will be ready for hand-sewing on labels. Call Pat Weber at 673-1457.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Featured speaker is Jennifer Riley of

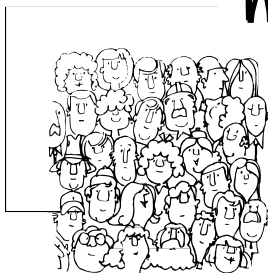
The Southern Landscape. This will be a great time to gather or crystallize those landscape gardening ideas before Spring arrives.

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 4:00 pm. Discussion of the

munity Center. Join Thaddeus Braun, Wine Shop and Restaurant Manager from Elliot's on Linden, as the presenter for the second annual Valentine's Day Wine Tasting event. For information & ticket sales, call Janet Baker at 673-1644.

Tickets \$10 per person. Tickets go on sale at the West Side Park Community Center.

# What's When Calendar



FY2007-2008 budget and ratification of proposed changes of the by-laws.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- **2nd Annual Valentine's Day Wine Tasting** – 7:00 pm, West Side Park Com-

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- **Cooking with Carmella** – 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Cost is \$10 at Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. A fun-filled Valentine's afternoon with Carmella Chase featuring fresh, fast, and easy dishes along with healthy living tips

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by Majorie Nurnberg of Seven Lakes Health and Fitness. The Valentine menu will be French cuisine with a chocolate finish. Only had a few spots remain available. For information, call 673-1180.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- **NARFE Sandhills Chapter 1895 meeting** – 10:30 am, at Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St, in Southern Pines. A guest speaker from H&R Block will attend. Chapter 1895 welcomes all Federal, including US Postal Service, active employees, retirees, and spouses to the monthly meetings. Additional information about NARFE is available from Vilma Geisert at 215-5898, Peter Feeney at 695-1554, Glenn Lazarus at 235-0178, or George Sandoval at 949-7287.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- **Computer Club Meeting** – 3:00 pm, Seven Lakes North Game Room. A speaker on genealogy from The Pinehurst History Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will discuss their large, free library and how to research your family history using the Internet.
- **Seven Lakes Civic Group Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes West Community Center. President Dave Kinney will give an overview of the group's activities and Dennis Roberts will present an update on the Seven Lakes water supply.
- **Sunflix Movies at Sunrise Theater - History Boys** showing, Feb. 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, Weekdays 7:30pm, and Saturday & Sunday at 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Comedy, drama.

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### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- **St. Valentine's Day**

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- **Seven Lakes Forum** – 9:00 am, Seven Lakes West Community Center. Steve Bouser, editor of *The Pilot*, presents "Why Not Require National Service of Youths?" All Seven Lakers are welcome to attend, refreshments will be served. For further information, please contact Don Welch 673-6701, or Bill Mamel 673-8970.
- **Thursday Night Bingo** – 7:00 pm Early Bird, 7:30 pm Regular Bingo. Our Lady of the Americas, 298 Farmers Market Road, off Hwy 211 just east of Hwy 220 near Candor. Featuring smoke free facilities and a progressive jackpot of \$500.00. All players over sixteen years are welcome, there is a \$15.00 minimum cash purchase. For more information, call 974-3051.
- **Spelling Bee for Literacy** – 7:00 pm, at Sunrise Theater in Southern Pines. A fun-filled fundraising event to

support the Moore County Literacy Council. Three-member teams compete for the coveted Best Spelling Team Trophy. Additional awards for Most Team Spirit and Best Team Costumes. Free admission, but donations will definitely be welcome. Come cheer for literacy! Call for information, 692-5954.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- **Project Linus "Make a Blanket Day" at Bookshop by the Lakes and The Coffee Scene** – 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. A special project day at the Bookshop. Drop off a completed blanket, quilt, or afghan, check out a blanket kit, or donate materials or funds and receive a coupon for a free cup of coffee courtesy of The Coffee Scene. Show your support and register for a prize drawing. For more information, call Pat Weber at 673-1457.
- **Sweetheart Swing Dinner & Dance at Seven Lakes Country Club** – 5:30 pm cocktails, 6:30 pm dinner, 7:00 pm music and dancing. The ever popular Glenn Davis will entertain guests at this Sweetheart Swing dinner and dance. Member's pricing, including tip, tax, and entertainment is \$22.50, non-members \$27.50.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- **Project Linus Workshop** – 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. A special Wednesday workshop for those who have a conflict with the Tuesday sessions. Call a neighbor and come help us make blankets for children in Moore County. For more information, call Pat Weber at 673-1457.
- **Area "A" Small Area Plan Steering Committee** – 6:00 pm at Old West End Cafeteria building.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- **Sunflix Movies at Sunrise Theater – *The Painted Veil*** showing Feb. 21 - 28, Weekdays at 7:30 pm and Saturday & Sunday at 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Drama, Romance, Adaptation. (PG-

13). A love story set in the 1920s about a young English couple—a conservative doctor and a restless society girl—who marry hastily, relocate to Hong Kong. There they betray each other easily, and find an unexpected chance at redemption and happiness while on a deadly journey into the heart of ancient China.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- **Seven Lakes Republican Precinct meeting** – 3:30 pm, Seven Lakes Fire Department building. Registration begins at 3:00 pm. Attendees will elect Precinct Officers consisting of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and as many Members-At-Large as deemed necessary to conduct business of the Precinct.

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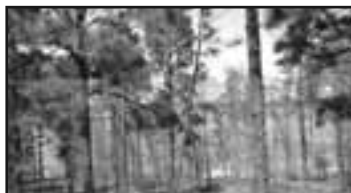


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5043 1-acre wooded on cul-de-sac . . . . . **\$60,000**

7006 3/4 Acre in Carriage Park . . . **\$99,900**

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# SLLA meeting

(Continued from front page)

Hudson, and Michael Florence against.

Ironically, of the Directors who voted for the measure, only Nuti will be continuing on the board after the elections in March. The other three supporters elected not to run for another term.

Technically, Nuti's plan involves an amendment of the by-laws, and the wording of that amendment allows the board to change the timing of monthly meetings at its discretion.

For now, the first work session following the new format will be held on February 14, at 7:30 pm.

Nuti offered another by-laws change for approval by the board Wednesday night — this one the addition of a section laying out the responsibilities of the Community Manager.

The board has been debating for months whether this section belongs in the by-laws or in a personnel policy manual. After some debate, the addition was approved five-to-four, with Truesdell, Hudson, and Florence opposed.

The board will take up other changes that have been pro-

posed for the SLLA by-laws in a special meeting at 4:00 pm on February 8 in the North Clubhouse. Also on the agenda for that meeting is approval of the \$1,227,750 budget for fiscal year 2007-2008 and approval of a revised personnel policy manual.

Like all SLLA meetings, this one is open to the public.

**Petition Candidate.** Randy Zielsdorf submitted 90 signatures on a petition asking that his name be added to the list of candidates for the SLLA Board of Directors. Assuming that at least fifty of those signatures are verifiable, Zielsdorf will become the sixth candidate vying for one of four open board seats.

**Community Standards.** Director Jeff Herman reported that his committee had received 28 complaints during the month of January and had thus far resolved four.

He noted that the Judicial Committee has not met recently, because when violators are notified that their case is being referred to the committee, they tend to correct the infraction.

**Security.** Director Michael

Florence reported that there have recently been a few incidents of residents having items stolen from their unlocked cars. He recommended locking your vehicle, even when it is parked in your driveway.

**Architectural Review.** Director Ron Richmond reported that his committee had approved four new homes and a half-dozen alterations and additions.

**Maintenance.** Director Ed Nuti said he and Community Manager Dalton Fulcher are working with Superior Tree on a plan to construct a 40-foot-by-40-foot structure at the community debris site in order to improve the appearance of the area.

The state has completed its annual review of four of the SLLA's five high-hazard dams, Fulcher reported, noting that the state engineers found the dams in excellent condition and suggested only relatively minor maintenance items.

**Finance.** Treasurer Steve Hudson reported year-to-date income of \$1,217,000 as of December 31, and operating expenses of \$644,000 during the same period. Capital expenses were \$368,000, bring total expenditures

to \$1,012,000.

Delinquent accounts are down to \$64,000, Hudson said.

In addition to the Board's February 8 special work session on the FY 2007-2008 budget, Hudson said, copies of the budget will be available in an information and input session to be held before the SLLA General Session on February 28.

**Recreation.** Assistant Community Manager Chad Beane said he is working closely with area Parks and Recreation Departments in planning the 2007 Senior Games. Both golf and billiards competitions will be held at Seven Lakes.

**Long Range Planning.** Pres-

ident Don Truesdell said his committee has finished its work and will publish the SLLA Long Range Plan on the Association's website. Printed copies will be available in the Landowners Office.

**Public comment.** Bud Shaver said there is talk in the community that some Board members may be planning to "dispose of Mr. Fulcher."

Shaver said it could be hard to find someone with an appropriate level of experience to replace Fulcher.

"I caution the Board," Shaver said, "think twice before getting rid of the devil you have now for the devil you don't know."

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# SLLA plans special meeting on budget, by-laws

by Don Truesdell  
SLLA President

We have changed our Internet provider, and the e-mail addresses of our staff has changed. The new e-mail addresses are: Dalton Fulcher

dfulcher@ncrrbiz.com

Chad Beane:

cbeane@ncrrbiz.com

Debbie Caulk:

sevenlakes@ncrrbiz.com

Vicky Strider:

vstrider@ncrrbiz.com

Our website address remains unchanged and is: [www.sevenlakesnc.org](http://www.sevenlakesnc.org). Please visit our website as it offers valuable information to our residents.

We have scheduled a special meeting for Thursday, February 8. This meeting will begin at 4:00 pm and will be held in the North Club House. There are three items on the agenda: 1. Approval of our budget for FY08; 2. Approval of our revised by-laws; 3. Review of our personnel procedure policies. This is a very important meeting and you are urged to attend.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 25. At this meeting we recognize a Seven Lakes resident with a Person of the Year Award. Last year Kay Hodge was recognized. We need nominations for this year's award. Please contact the office at 673-4931 or e-mail to [sevenlakes@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:sevenlakes@ncrrbiz.com) to nominate a resident for this honor.

We have completed our second traffic study. This study was conducted on the South Side from Monday, January 8, 4:30 pm to Wednesday, January 10, 4:30 pm. Our survey records the traffic in both directions.

For this period of time we had a total of 447 vehicles traveling eastbound and 419 vehicles traveling westbound or a total of 866 vehicles.

In the eastbound direction there were a total of 55 vehicles (12.3%) where law enforcement action would have been required. There were four cars traveling in excess of 50 mph (one was clocked at 65 to 69 mph).

In the westbound direction there were a total of a total of 34 vehicles (8.1%) where law enforcement action would have been required. Two cars were traveling in excess of 50 mph.

These results are unacceptable.

A car driven at 60 mph is moving at a rate of 88 feet per second. How long does it take for a driver to react and apply the brakes? How many feet does it

take to stop a car traveling at 60 mph?

We are going to repeat this study and if we find similar results then I think that speed tables

or other speed limiting devices should be installed.

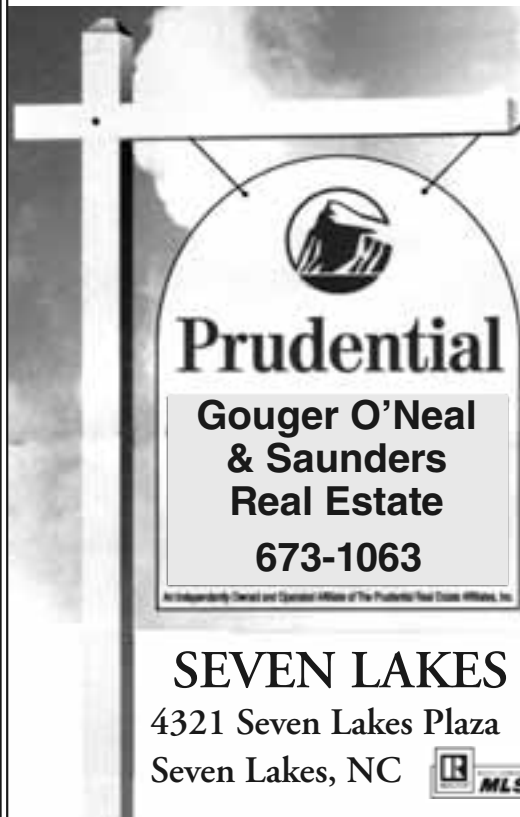
If you would like to see the details of this study, please visit our office and request to see

traffic study 2.

If you would like to request a traffic study please contact me at [dtruesdell@nc.rr.com](mailto:dtruesdell@nc.rr.com) or call me at 673-1509.

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**1 BRASSIE LANE, FOXFIRE • \$269,900**

Tile flooring, two spacious bedroom suites, third bedroom makes great den too. Storage abounds in walk-in closets, pantry, and garage complete with workshop with built in workspace.



**6 BUCKHORN, FOXFIRE • \$329,000**

Golf front home on deep lot overlooking green, hardwood floors, granite in kitchen, extra details for a perfect new home. Large utility room, computer desk in kitchen/breakfast area, extra large master suite with two walkins. Great value with all brick exterior.

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# OPINION

## It can be hard to be healthy!

"Come on, Oliver, it's time for your dose of castor oil."  
"I donwanna! I donwanna! I donwanna! It tastes terrible!"  
"Come on, it's good for you."  
"I donwanna. I'm gonna run away from home!"  
"Fine. I'll make a sandwich for you to take with you right

scratch, cut, or bruise called for that dark red medicine to be splashed over your skin. It stung like the devil, but I guess that anything that hurt that bad was going to kill germs. Only sissies doused cuts with Mercurochrome. That stuff didn't sting at all.

Now I must confess that my sister and all of my buddies in the neighborhood doubted that I was really one



**Ollie's Thoughts**  
Oliver Gossard

after you have taken your castor oil."  
I never won. I always had to take the tablespoon of that hated, oily, greasy, evil tasting stuff. Once my parents put the castor oil in with orange juice to make it all taste better. It didn't work. For about a year, I wouldn't drink orange juice remembering how it tasted with the castor oil mixed in with it.  
Two years ago, someone told me that a good thing to rub on wood was castor oil. I went to the drug store to purchase it. The pharmacist and I had to hunt along the shelves for a minute or two before we found it. A relic.  
And do any of you remember iodine? As a kid any

of them.  
I mean, they all thought that there was something wrong with me. You see, I loved the taste of cod liver oil. We all had to swallow some every night so that we would grow up strong and healthy. They all hated that dark, thick oil. I loved it. They all thought of shunning me due to our difference over cod liver oil.  
My sister, sweet and compassionate as she normally was, entertained thoughts of fratricide I think.  
Anyway, think back to the days when you were a kid. What medicines did you hate? Youngsters today don't have to cope with those character building medicines and salves. Too bad.

## Candidates' statement on Mamel appointment

*[The following statement was read by Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board Candidate Jim Haggard during the public comment portion of the Tuesday, January 23 General Meeting of the Association.]*

### Open Letter to the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board

On or about the 18th of January you, the 7 Lakes West Landowners Association Board, voted 5 to 3 in favor of appointing Bill Mamel to a vacant Board position. Your action in this matter is very questionable in view of the following:

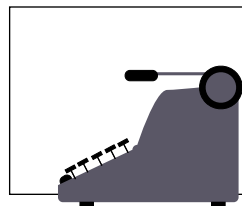
- You ignored the potential capabilities of the four board-approved candidates who were running for positions on the Board.
- You ignored several direct communications to you regarding the appointment issue—two of those communications from Board candidates.
- You ignored the potential harm

your action would generate within the community. What is so puzzling about your action is that there were alternative courses of action that would have been totally acceptable to the entire community. First, you could have asked any of the four

power play. A power play guaranteed to create a ground swell of public dissatisfaction. A ground swell that has included resignation of key committee members, withdrawal of one highly qualified Board candidate from the election, and serious consideration by the remaining candidates to also withdraw from the election process.

### Your Turn

Dale Erickson,  
Jim Haggard,  
Kathy Kirst,  
& Ed Tuton



Your action has sent a signal to the com-

munity that the slate of new candidates is not qualified nor desired as members of "your" Board. We, the candidates, find your flagrant disregard of common courtesy troubling. Frankly, we consider your position that we aren't good enough to serve on the Board, a personal insult.  
The appointment of Bill Mamel to the Board was unnecessary, uncalled for, and flat out wrong. And no amount of explaining will change that simple truth.

Again you ignored these very logical, very legal alternatives in favor of an apparent political

## No doubt about Kirst

Dear Editor:

There appears to be a divergence of opinions as to who would be the best individual Board Members to direct the progress of Seven Lakes West. However, there should be no

difference of opinion about Board Candidate Kathy Kirst!  
Kathy is well qualified by education, with a Masters Degree in Accounting and CPA certification.

mented for businesses and trained their employees to use. She was previously the treasurer of a homeowners association, so she is familiar with the duties of that position.

One could hardly ask for a better candidate!

I also know Kathy personally, and find her to be bright, energetic, creative, and dignified. She has not been outspoken in this community, preferring to work behind the scenes on the Judicial Committee and Long Range Planning.

I believe that Kathy would be a vehicle of healing for this divided community, and urge you to vote for her.

Stephen D. Tableman  
Seven Lakes West

## Letters to the Editor

She also has a great deal of management experience from her years at IBM and consulting work.

I can personally attest to the difficulty in understanding and implementing the software program SAP, which Kathy imple-

## SEVEN LAKES TIMES

Published every other Friday for residents & landowners of Seven Lakes, Foxfire, & McLendon Hills, NC  
by Seven Lakes Times, LLC, P.O. Box 602, West End, NC 27376  
910-673-0111 • 910-673-0210 (fax) • thetimes@ac.net • www.sevenlakestimes.net

Publishers — Greg Hankins & Tom Hankins

Editor — Greg Hankins • Layout & Design — Marcy Hankins

Founded in 1985 by Seven Lakes Times, Inc.

J. Sherwood Dunham, Alfred C. Gent,  
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# Board members defend Mamel appointment

It is unfortunate that this statement is necessary. But after witnessing the Seven Lakes West General Session of Tuesday, January 23, so bereft of truth, reason, and goodwill, we have reluctantly concluded that the misrepresentations and misunderstandings of that night cannot stand uncorrected.

## History of appointment

Much of the tumult at the General Session related to the appointment of Bill Mamel to fill the unexpired term of Bill Parker, which runs through mid-March 2008. Bill Parker resigned from the Board in late June 2006. Mike Finney was appointed to serve the remainder of Bill's term on August 9. He resigned on December 12.

In the following month, Jim Ballew, Jay Mikula, Tony Rocco, Ron Sickenberger, and Ed Steelman were approached concerning the vacant position. In the end, all declined to be considered. While we do not characterize the response of any specific invitee, the overwhelming reason for demurring was the toxic political climate that has developed in our community. While sadly unsurprising, this perception and reality should give us all

pause.

On January 14, Jim Meikle, as President of the Board, called a special meeting for January 17 to discuss the possible appointment of Bill Mamel who had agreed to return to the Board for a 14-month term. On January 15, Dale Erickson, then a candidate for the 2007-2010 Board term, circulated an email in which he also volunteered to serve the unexpired

Committee [ARC] and the Seven Lakes West developer, perseverance – as four board members have resigned in the last two years, and critically, criteria beyond committee responsibilities: the analytical, level-headed, collaborative, and open-minded traits required of a board member at-large.

Of the candidates available, we felt that Bill Mamel best satisfied the criteria. We believe he will do a fine job leading the ARC and renewing his service to the community as

ically provide that the Board is to appoint a replacement to fill unexpired terms, and this is the routine practice of the Board – Bill is the fourth appointee in less than two years. Indeed, we have no knowledge of any other procedure being used to fill a vacated term on this Board. It should be noted that Jo Nicholas was appointed to fill Laud Pitt's unexpired term when he resigned after last year's election, and not as the pre-determined fourth place finisher. Second, we believe it would have been irresponsible to leave the Board position vacant for a further two months, and longer on a practical basis as the new member gained traction in late March and April. Not only is

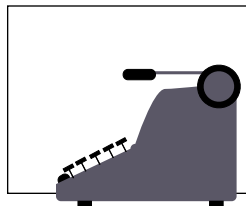
eight a bad number, as it creates the possibility of deadlock, but in some ways the ARC position has been vacant since last summer since Mike's term was so brief. A number of critical issues for the community, particularly those requiring developer collaboration, need resolution and action now.

The candidates in the annual election appear to have comprehensively misunderstood our decision. Rather than seek clarification, it is regrettable that they chose to present their unfortunate statement at the General Session. If indeed, they were viewed as "not good enough" for the Board, it is inexplicable that

(See "Appointment," p. 31)

## Your Turn

Hugh Beckwith,  
Ray MacKay,  
Jo Nicholas,  
& Virgil Reid



term. The Board deliberated on January 17, and voted to appoint Bill Mamel.

## Reasons for our vote

While it is an extraordinary step to discuss the rationale for the voting of the majority in this matter, it is regrettably necessary. We considered the following in evaluating the candidates: technical knowledge related to architecture and the architectural standards of Seven Lakes West, ability to work collaboratively with the Architectural Review

a board member at-large. We encourage you to query the Board Associates presently serving on the ARC concerning Bill's knowledge and capabilities. Reasonable people of goodwill can disagree with our choice, made in nothing but good faith. We do not impugn the motives and integrity of those who may reach a different conclusion.

Some have questioned why we did not wait until the annual election and merely fill the unexpired term with the fourth place finisher. First, the By-laws specif-

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### HOMES SOLD IN 2006

Neighborhood	Sold	Sale Price Range	Median Price
Seven Lakes North	64 Homes	\$112,000 - \$415,000	\$170,250
Seven Lakes South	24 Homes	\$157,000 - \$253,500	\$188,500
Seven Lakes West	74 Homes	\$125,000 - \$1,250,000	\$325,000

### LOTS SOLD IN 2006

Neighborhood	Sold	Sale Price Range	Median Price
Seven Lakes North	9 Lots	\$10,000 - \$45,000	\$28,000
Seven Lakes South (interior & golf)	33 Lots	\$3,000 - \$63,000	\$18,500
Seven Lakes West (interior & golf)	70 Lots	\$25,000 - \$112,500	\$53,900
Seven Lakes West (lakefront)	9 Lots	\$175,000 - \$450,000	\$342,500
Morganwood	11 Lots	\$72,000 - \$145,000	\$104,000

\*Pinehurst Southern Pines Association of Realtors MLS data as of 1/12/07.  
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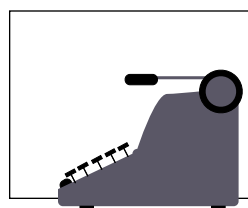
# Erickson explains withdrawal from race

I documented my interest in being a Seven Lakes West Board of Directors candidate in late October, and subsequently was board-approved to have my name placed on the ballot. I looked forward to the prospect of being a board member, in any position deemed appropriate, although my resume stated past Architectural Review Committee experience in both Seven Lakes West and in Cary.

I am also sensitive to community needs, and my submitted biography stated interest in achieving mission cohesiveness within the board, in developing a strong working relationship with the Area Representatives, and, among other important tasks, in protecting and enhancing the quality of life of the residents.

Two weeks ago, I learned that the board had decided to seek and appoint an individual to fill the un-expired term of the ARC Chairman position. Because of my interest in becoming a board member and my past ARC experience, I submitted a letter to each board member indicating my interest and qual-

ifications for the position. To date I have received no response to my letter, and, as we all have learned, the board made a decision to appoint Bill Mamel to fill the position during the January 17, board work session.



## Your Turn

Dale Erickson  
Seven Lakes West

Furthermore, considering the possibility that Jim Meikle might now be re-elected, I visualized a politically-inated board with a status quo mentality and with a distinctly divided composition of

members. Those conditions are literally impossible to be accepted into and to work with. Since I had already been passed-over by the board for the ARC position, I consequently withdrew my candidacy on January 19.

Since then, I have vowed to assist and support Jim Haggard, Kathy Kirst, and Ed Tuton as they work to achieve their election that will place them on

the board.

Both Bill Mamel and the board majority should be highly embarrassed and ashamed of their unconscionable decision. This decision has created huge community unrest, and if left unattended, the likelihood of good people resigning from the board can perhaps be expected.

The true joy of quality living, protecting and improving property values, and high community morale is at risk. What a shame, because the physical attributes of Seven Lakes West are truly incomparable; a challenging eighteen-hole golf course, a crystal-clear 840 acre lake, a new equestrian area, large residential lots reaching multi-acre size, and a community center with its accompanying pool, play ground, tennis courts, and walking paths. We all have worked

hard in achieving this unique environment.

How unfortunate it is that the joys of these superb attributes could be severely compromised by a politically-minded Board of Directors who placed their own agenda ahead of community need. It was with genuine enthusiasm that I became a candidate for the board; it was with disgust and frustration with the current board that I elected to withdraw. If my withdrawal helped raise community awareness to the issue of devastating politics within the board, then it was worth it.

We need a serious change in the board, and an overwhelming vote for Jim Haggard, Kathy Kirst, and Ed Tuton will be a major step forward.

## Milligan

(Continued from page 26)

dent's tenure than any other Board. Your Long-range Committee has presented work to this Board, but very little has been accepted. Why?

We must now rely on the wisdom of you, the voters, and landowners of SLW. I urge you to read, listen, and evaluate the candidates on the ballot. I would encourage you to look at the three new candidates, consider them and vote. Seven Lakes West deserves a change.

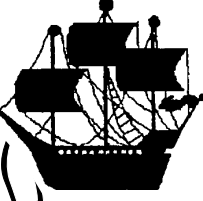
If you, the property owner, would like for me to answer any questions regarding what I have written, please contact me by email, ronbetmilligan@earthlink.net

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# Time for regime change on West Side

As we approach the election of new Board members, there is vital information which must be communicated to the members of the Association, especially those who are not yet residents here and thus do not get the minutes of the Board meetings. We are a great community and deserve an effective Board of Directors. Please consider the following when you cast your votes for the people who will run this community.

As you know, I was elected to the WestSide Board in March 2004, and I served as your legal representative for about a year and a half. I was forced to resign from the Board when the team of Jim Meikle and Bill Mamel excluded me from serious legal negotiations. Due to partisan politics, they prevented me from doing the job for which I was elected.

That is no way to run an effective organization!

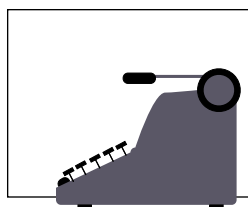
Since that time, during the regime of Jim Meikle, there have been three other resignations from the WestSide Board due to underhanded politics and lack of leadership, and two of the candidates for Board positions have withdrawn for the same reasons.

That's no way to run an effective organization!

Also during this time, there have been issues which have riled up and divided this community. In the jet boat controversy, Jim Meikle manipulated the Board into a position which was opposed by most of the community; only massive protests changed his position. In the complicated Wildlife officer affair, the majority of the community was opposed to the proposed agreement, but it was signed in a big rush despite the community's desires. And now we find that we spent almost \$40,000 in legal fees negotiating that agreement! And we will apparently

spend another \$8,000-\$10,000 for lake safety enforcement which we could have had for free through the Wildlife Commission.

That is no way to



## Your Turn

Linda Tableman  
Seven Lakes West

run an effective organization!

There have been issues regarding the finances of this community, including expenses paid without receipts. The Board has not had a real audit for several years, and the "reviews" which have been done recommended against these financial practices, but still they continue. The audit which we demanded will not cover the 2005-06 fiscal year; why not?

That's no way to run an effective organization!

Board work meetings, closed to the public, have become rife with diversion, and even accusatory and malicious against certain Board members who are trying to do a professional job. Jim Meikle has done NOTHING to improve this situation, and indeed has sought to control

what is reported in the minutes of these meetings. Betty Milligan, who has done outstanding work for Seven Lakes West, has refused to continue in this repressive atmosphere.

Many decisions have been made with a five-to-four majority vote, including such critical decisions as the Wildlife

agreement, which documents clearly the divisive nature of the Board under Meikle's leadership.

That's no way to run an effective organization!

Due to the resignation of yet again another Board member, it was my understanding that our community elections, only weeks away, would be used to fill that position. And yet Bill Mamel was appointed to the Board at the urging of Jim Meikle.

Do we really want more of the same as described above in paragraph two?

Does Jim Meikle think this community is his own private chess board where he can move men around for his personal ambitions?

Does he think we will not see through his manipulations? What

of the wishes of the residents and property owners in Seven Lakes West — apparently, they just don't count in Meikle's world. Rather, it is more important that he gain an ally and friend on the Board than that the community chooses who they want to represent their interests in these secret Board decisions. That's no way to run an effective organization!

On the positive side, we have some serious, professional people running for the Board positions - people who have no interest other than what is best for this community considering the wishes of the landowners, not their own agenda. Kathy Kirst, Jim Haggard, Ed Tuton - look at their

records, their educational and professional accomplishments, ask your neighbors about these people, consider what you heard at the Candidates Forum recently held, and then please vote for the *best* candidates to run our community.

We all have substantial investments here. We have considerable assets in Seven Lakes West Landowners Association, and we surely want them looked after by effective and efficient managers, who dedicate their time and energy - for which we thank them profusely - to making this community cohesive rather than divided.

That is how to run an effective organization!

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# Time to make some changes . . .

Dear Editor:

My husband and I are homeowners at Seven Lakes West and have had the privilege of attending the monthly general meetings to hear from our Board of Directors. At these meetings all landowners have an opportunity to ask questions and to get a feeling as to how the board members stand with regard to various issues. We would like to address several concerns we have regarding recent situations at Seven Lakes West.

**Projects and the lack of a bidding process:** No community project should be awarded without at least three bids, regardless how big or small. At one meeting, Ray MacKay, a board member, announced that he

chose not to request bids on the repairs to Lakeway Pond. That situation took almost a month to repair. It may not have been an expensive repair, but only



one bid? **Annual Audit:** The surprised response from our president Jim Meikle and a few other board members when residents asked for an audit of the books was shocking. President Jim Meikle and the Treasurer

should encourage an annual audit to protect the board and to make sure there is accountability for all community monies. Most associations of this size have an annual audit every year. An effective and responsible leader would demand it.

**Employees:** How many employees are needed in the administration office? Who is responsible for making sure that we are not overstaffed? How many employees have been hired since Jim Meikle took office?

**Fire Protection:** There seems to be a lack of adequate fire hydrant protection. Check out the number of fire hydrants in our community. Do we have enough? Do we have an effective and

timely plan to solve this problem?

**Communication:** It appears that Jim Meikle does not communicate effectively with the Seven Lakes West Landowners when these individuals present their ideas to the board of directors for future consideration. It seems that every time a homeowner presents an idea the response is that they will look into it. In the end since it was not one of the Board's own ideas nothing is ever done.

**NCWLA Agreement:** When the majority of the community at the recent board meeting asked the board not to sign the agreement with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission [NCWRC], President Jim Meik-

le chose to sign anyway. Who's pocketbook will this effect? Your and ours! Now we will have to hire an additional employee to make sure that NCWRC rules are followed on the Lake that we own.

While some may disagree with what we have written, please investigate for yourself. Have we had adequate decision making and communication with the landowners?

It is time to change the leadership of the board. Some of the candidates seem to be highly qualified. Please take time to read their resumes and vote accordingly.

Susan Keenan  
Seven Lakes West

## Stand up

(Continued from page 29)

geted for over two years ago. We have experienced more crime, expenses have increased substantially, and we have excessive employees with questionable job descriptions. The issue of mail home delivery, which two thirds of the homeowners voted in favor of, has gone on deaf ears.

Our assessments are going to be increased and why should they? Our growth should have covered our expenses for a few more years. Possibly could this be due to mismanagement, not acquiring adequate competitive bidding, a building and pool that went well over budget, boats without stickers and stored for years without being towed, and buying land for a small percentage of homeowners' usage. Now more than ever, we need to demand an audit, not just for this year, but every year to insure accountability to all homeowners

ers of how our money is being spent.

I also strongly recommend that ballots should be sent to a non-partisan group of individuals. Our votes are important and we need to insure that they are being counted fairly.

Fellow homeowners, we need to elect a Board that works for the community and to do this, we

need a change of Board members. Take a good look at the candidates on the ballot and I ask you, is there any one of them that has not represented our community properly to insure quality of life, security, excellent communication, and listened to our needs.

Carolyn James  
Seven Lakes West

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# Take a long, hard look at Board leadership

Dear Editor:

After attending the Westside Landowners General Meeting on Tuesday, January 23, I felt compelled to write a letter calling the residents of Seven Lakes West to take a long hard look at the leadership on our board of directors.

Having attended several general meetings, I cannot believe how totalitarian the current elected Board has become. As elected officials they are responsible for the management of the community and making sure that the landowners best interests are always tantamount, yet the outcry at this week's meeting would suggest the communities' best interests are not what Jim Meikle and some members of the board have in mind. It's time to demand some sensible direction and hold the board accountable for their actions.

As President, Jim Meikle, is

ultimately responsible to this community for the way this board conducts its business. On Tuesday evening, Jim introduced his friend, Bill Mamel, as a new board member.

Where did Mr. Mamel come from and why is he on our board? Why didn't Jim direct the Board to choose from the current list of candidates or ask one of the current committee members to fill the void until after the March voting? It appears Mr. Meikle has his own agenda. I listened at the end of our meeting for his answer to this question and many more and Mr. Meikle had none.

There are many issues this community needs to address and we should be looking to Mr. Meikle, as President of our Board, to provide valuable leadership not questionable decisions made behind closed doors. Why shouldn't our board meetings

be open to the landowners? Something as simple as opening the board's work sessions to include landowners into the decision making process would begin to promote some positive energy.

I look to our President to be aware of the feelings of our community on major policy change and certainly something as serious as filling a position on our current board. If he doesn't know the direction of public opinion, it is his duty to get out among the people, take a survey, get a vote, or even stand at the mailbox house and pose some questions to the residents. As a servant of our community it makes sense to seek his constituents' thoughts and opinions.

How can issues including but not limited to; boat size on the lake which will directly affect property value, building and development of housing commu-

nities within our gates, security issues along our borders, and financial decisions involving hundreds of thousands of our hard earned dollars be made behind closed doors and without direct community involvement? This and many other questions are posed at every meeting and the answers are not forthcoming.

One last query to our Board President, upon the resignation of Betty Milligan (no relation), did you question why a woman who has spent the past year planning, organizing, and executing outstanding community events and who receives overwhelming positive feedback for all her work

and dedication declines to continue her work on the current board with you as President? I say to the community, does this open your eyes to the state of affairs under our current leadership?

It is time for this community – retired, semi-retired, working class, young and old, parents and grandparents to use your voice, your presence at general meetings, and your computers to take back control of the decision making process.

It's time to give the Meikle regime a lesson in listening.

Ken and Karen Milligan  
Seven Lakes West

## Appointment

(Continued from page 25)

they would have been unanimously approved by the Nominating Committee and the Board. We believe that they could justifiably take umbrage if we were to pluck one of them from the ballot as a favorite and thus demonstrably interfere with the election. Every ballot cast in the community would be affected by such an action. And committee assignments for the next Board year depend on Board composition and are thus unknowable at this time. It would be shortsighted to view only an ARC-minded candidate as suitable for appointment. We are unwilling to usurp the Community's prerogative to choose among the candidates – quite the opposite of what some allege.

### An end to incivility

The personal, inflammatory, and baseless attacks perpetrated upon Jim Meikle and Bill Mamel at the General Session are extraordinary and indefensible. Both have served this Community with dedication and distinction, and always in good faith. They have volunteered time and effort with no motive beyond the betterment of the

community and the quality of life enjoyed by its residents. Only the people responsible can extinguish the poisonous climate of incivility and suspicion that has

overtaken our community. But in any case the time has come to recognize this conduct for what it is and hold the appropriate people accountable.

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# Candidates' qualifications impressive

Dear Editor:

As Seven Lakes West continues to grow, issues confronting the West Side Board will also grow in significance.

These issues must be cost-effectively resolved in a framework that is compatible with the overall objectives that we all have for the future of our com-

munity including: continued economic viability; controlled growth in a recreational environment; preservation of Lake Auman, in its current pristine condition; and the maintenance and enhancement of security provisions to insure the safety and well being of our residents.

Additionally, the Board's res-

olution of these issues must be accomplished in an atmosphere of civility and effective communication with, and thorough evaluation of proposals from, community residents.

To ensure that the West Side Board is the effective management entity that is so important to this community, it is impera-

tive that we as a community select the most qualified people possible to serve as members of the Board.

As such, we are privileged to have an outstanding slate of new candidates running for positions on the Board — namely in alphabetical order, Jim Haggard, Kathy Kirst, and Ed Tuton. Each of these candidates has Bachelor degrees, and all have participated in advanced studies with two of the three having achieved a Masters degree in their field of endeavor.

All three have excellent experience in industry including leadership roles in management, which are extremely important factors in their ability to effectively function as Board members. Additionally, all three have been active in community organizations and have demonstrated an excel-

lent level of interpersonal relations with community residents.

In conclusion, it is a privilege and a pleasure to endorse Jim Haggard, Kathy Kirst, and Ed Tuton for positions on the Seven Lakes West Landowners Board. These three new candidates have the background, leadership capabilities, and professionalism necessary to lead this community forward and to the achievement of short and long range community objectives.

As a final thought from one who has participated in the Candidate Nominating Committee in past years, this year's Nominating Committee is to be complimented for the wonderful slate of candidates that they have selected for positions on the Board. It is a job well done.

Bill Lyons  
Seven Lakes West

## Westside changes needed

Dear Editor:

The upcoming election of SLWLA board directors provides an opportunity to change the makeup of the board.

One only needs to read *The Seven Lakes Times* editorial of December 8, to recognize a need for a change of leadership. The editorial addressed the informal and confrontational manner of the General Meetings during the audience participation period. It also explained that association members were rightly upset that negotiations with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission were held in a nonpublic manner.

Association members appreciate the dedication Board Directors give to the community. Board Directors do work hard and will no doubt state their accomplishments in the near future. It is the failure of the board to include association members in its decision making process that leaves members feeling left out. The board will usually solicit and accept comments on an issue,

but members usually are not informed of details to fully understand the issue. Also, members are not allowed to attend Board Working Sessions to hear arguments leading to a decision. This was addressed very eloquently in a recent 'Your Turn' article in *The Times*.

Another reality is that of conflict between Board Directors. A number of Directors have resigned thus indicating they could not work with Board Officers. One Director publicly stated she was not included in discussions of an issue in her area of responsibility.

Strong dissatisfaction was expressed, at the last General Meeting, of the Board's appointment process in filling the vacant ARC Directors position. This action has caused a wide rift in the Board/Members relationship and could have been avoided with proper leadership.

This community deserves a board with directors that work well with each other and is open with, and attentive to, association

members and not appear as an adversary.

When selecting the candidates of your choice, be sure to consider the need for new leadership to correct the above concerns and to establish a harmonious SLWLA Board.

Eddie J. Jackson  
Seven Lakes West

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The Women of Seven Lakes will sponsor a Ladies Luncheon/Card Party on Thursday, February 22 at 12:00 pm at the Seven Lakes County Club.

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# Westside Board needs better listening skills

Dear Editor:

At least there was one bright spot at the contentious January 23 Seven Lakes West Landowners Association meet-

ing. Board member Mary Anne Fewkes announced that based upon the feedback received from residents, the proposed boating rule changes would be fur-

ther reviewed then resubmitted to the residents for comments before being voted upon and implemented.

It is disappointing that the

board majority will not operate in the same manner. The pending election presented the perfect opportunity to listen to residents and to fill the vacant board posi-

tion with one of the well-qualified candidates or to open the seat to the election process.

Rather, the President and his political cronies with one of their too familiar closed door executive session decisions chose to fill the position immediately. Obviously, this was a pure political move to maintain control.

With all due respect to the new appointee, if you wanted to be on the board why didn't you declare your candidacy and present yourself and your qualifications alongside the other candidates.

Let's all hope that this election results in a board composed of new members who will function in an open-minded manner, practice true fiscal responsibility, and work with and treat each other and the community respectfully.

Perhaps, important long range planning can then be undertaken to propel the community of Seven Lakes West forward.

*Ron Shepard  
Seven Lakes West*

## A vote for change on the West Side

Dear Editor:

As relative newcomers to our beautiful community we were appalled when the majority of our current Board began its ill-mannered descent into arrogant and autocratic rule.

We are heartened by the opportunity to elect three new board members that would once again shift the balance toward a more civil, caring, and inclusive

Board.

Kathy Kirst, with a Master's degree in accounting and over twenty-five years experience with IBM and Deloitte Consulting, as well as service to our community on the Judicial Committee and the Long Range Planning and Vision Committees is one such candidate. Kathy commented in her candidate interview that she would like to "keep our

community the wonderful place she chose to retire to."

With all of the turmoil created by the leadership style and unilateral actions of the current Board clique we are fortunate to have someone like Kathy that is willing to step up at this crucial time to help restore dignity and sound decision-making to the Board. Kathy, along with equally excellent candidates, Jim Hag-

gard, and Ed Tuton, present us with a viable alternative to the current morass we find ourselves in.

Let's join together to stem the tide of volunteer and Board resignations by electing Kathy, Jim H., and Ed to a new Board for SLWLA!

*Diane and Ed Silberhorn  
Seven Lakes West*

## Support change, for better leadership

Dear Editor:

Soon, we will be voting for three new members of the Board of Directors at Seven Lakes West.

We wonder if you, the residents, have any of the same concerns and worries that we have. If you do, then seriously consider new leadership when voting.

Do you as property owners really feel that we are being informed and that our opinions and feelings are being listened to? An example: Our President signed the agreement with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission [NCWRC] knowing that the majority of citizens in Seven Lakes West said no and asked that the agreement not be signed.

Is our leadership insisting on prudent spending? In that we will now be paying approximately \$8,000 to have someone patrol the lake. If we had not signed the agreement the NCWRC would be doing it with no charge to Seven Lakes West.

We as a community are not being listened to; it's time to be concerned about the control and decision-making process of the current leadership.

There are three well-qualified citizens that have filed for elections; Jim Haggard, Kathy Kirst, and Ed Tuton. Be sure to read their resumes before marking

your ballot.

Please support change, for a better leadership.

*Janet Baker  
Seven Lakes West*



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# Take it slow on proposed meeting change

Dear Editor:

The case Ed Nuti makes both in *The Seven Lakes Times* and again at unnecessary length in the board's most recent work session, to modify and reschedule these sessions; may indeed be worth exploring at some time in the future. However, it seems thoughtless on his part to propose such a change and to argue so vehemently for it at the busiest time of the board's year.

The next couple of months are hardly the time to explore different work session venues or methods of operation. Ed is correct when he claims that board work sessions have had small audiences. However, one can hardly blame this on the day of the week or the time of the day. These sessions have received very little publicity and until this

month, they have not been announced as open to the public.

Obviously, any contemplated schedule changes such as those



he proposes must be acceptable to the remaining board members as well as to our present board candidates. Currently these candidates are running with the expectation that the monthly work sessions will be held at 2:00 pm on the Thursday prior to the last Wednesday of

every month and they are making their plans accordingly. Of all the candidates, only Randy Zeilsdorf because of his teaching commitments appears to have a problem with this schedule.

These work sessions have been held at the same time and day of the month for fifteen years or more, and while no provision or mention is made of them in our by-laws, they do set a precedent that shouldn't be ignored. Debate if you wish a possible change of procedure and venue but do so next year when the board is not overwhelmed with far more important issues. Any such debate should be the purview of our newly elected board and not complicate the last two months of our present one.

In addition, I would suggest that any change should only be made with the assurance that *The Seven Lakes Times* is able to accommodate its coverage to the new schedule. The presence of *The Times* at the work sessions is vitally important and contributes in large measure to the civility, I repeat, the civility and brevity of these sessions. It's no coincidence that SLLA work sessions average an estimated two hours or less per month as compared to the six, seven, and eight hour marathons so

prevalent to the closed work sessions of our neighbors across the way.

Matters of huge importance face the Board during the next two months. Our community has been adrift far too long without either controls or a viable and visible long-range plan. Charlie Oliver's presentation at the last work session attests to this fact. We must build our reserves. And, to do so, we must control our costs. In the next two months, the Board is obliged to ratify

and approve next year's budget as well as the community's by-laws. The board must prepare for the forthcoming annual election. These obligations take precedence over everything else, including I might add, Ed's persistent and untimely suggestions.

If you agree with me let me hear from you. My email is rerskine@nc.rr.com

Ron Erskine  
Seven Lakes North

## Security hole?

Dear Editor:

Many residents in the Seven Lakes North section are not aware that for some time now, there has been unguarded access to the Ramapo, Shagbark, Fox Run part of our complex. Completely unguarded, anyone could come and go.

I brought this to the attention of our Board, and they erected a white PVC horse fence and placed a sixteen foot wide gate there. Informing me that the Seven Lakes Maintenance staff would have a key and one resident at the end of Shagbark was given the other key and told by the Board that he could come and go at his leisure.

I was under the impression that everyone in Seven Lakes had to leave or enter via the guard gate, and any other access is a violation. This "other" access to our community can be reached by going down MacDougall Drive, turning right after passing Diversicare of Seven Lakes, and taking a dirt road one hundred yards to enter Seven Lakes.

This is very troubling and if you feel the same, please register your displeasure of this alternative access to Community Manager Dalton Fulcher, or Board President Don Truesdell. The by-laws do not allow the Board to cut special favors to residents, just on a handshake or promise. Many of us paid our dues here mainly for the security aspect of gated living. If that security can't or won't be enforced, then maybe legal action may be warranted.

Randy Brooks  
Seven Lakes North

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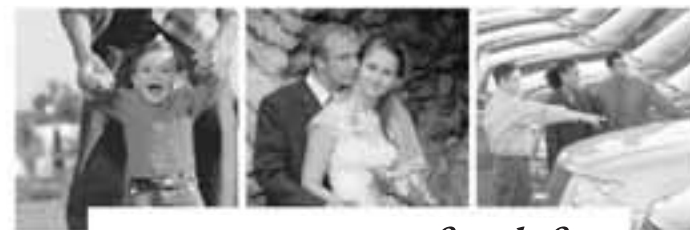
proper self-respect and dignity, always living with an ample helping of the love that God has placed in our keeping to be used with care, lubricated and renewed, keeping the lamp burning.

Yes, giving thanks for the privilege of living.



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# Candidates' night

(Continued from front page)

That information appeared in the December 22nd issue of *The Seven Lakes Times* and has also appeared in the Seven Lakes West newsletter, so it will not be repeated here.

## Position sought

The moderators' next question asked candidates what area of Board responsibility they felt they were best suited for.

**Jim Haggard** said his primary skill set was in operations management, which he defined as "take a pot of money, a group of people, and move those people from point A to point B in as efficient and cost-effective a manner as possible." He said he could apply those skills to most of the functional areas on the Board.

Haggard said that he was not interested in serving as legal director or treasurer, noting that he "is not a lawyer or accountant."

Haggard suggested a change in the role of Board President. "Regardless of who fills that position," Haggard said, the President should be "totally neutral on all issues coming before the Board for a vote." He said the President's primary concern should be "maintaining order in meetings and making sure that Robert's Rules of Order are complied with."

He said the President should only vote on issues in the case of a tie, and only then the "on the merits of the issue as presented in the debate among Board members."

**Kathy Kirst** said that her business background and education qualified her for several positions on the Board and noted that she had previously served on other civic or homeowner Boards as vice president, treasurer, and secretary.

Kirst said she felt she could make "the most positive impact" as the Board's Treasurer. "I have an analytical mind and am detail-oriented," Kirst said in her written statement delivered by Bud Sales. "You need to have the members feel comfortable that someone is watching out for their money, their future interests, and the community's assets."

**Jim Meikle** said that he had served on the Board both as Lake and Environment Director

and as the Board's President. "I have done my best to serve the community in both positions," Meikle said. Noting his diverse background, he added that he would be willing to serve in what ever capacity the Board felt would be in the community's best interest.

**Ed Tuton** said that he had had experience in both management and finance and would accept the wishes of the community in the Board to serve in whatever capacity they felt best used his talents.

Tuton said he agreed with Haggard's assessment of the job of the Board's President — to facilitate the discussion of options and coordinate debate rather than dictating the president's own desires.

## Community priorities

The moderator next asked "what issues need to be addressed in the near term, i.e., in the next one to three years? Do you see longer term issues as well?"

**Kathy Kirst** identified three things that need to be addressed immediately:

1. Conducting a formal audit of the Association's books and then forming an audit committee which will conduct interim internal audits.
2. Opening Board work sessions to "general attendance and discussion by the community."
3. Updating the bylaws and other legal documents of the Association. Kirst noted, for example, that the fines levied by the community's judicial committee do not follow the law as set forth in the North Carolina Planned Community Act.

**Jim Meikle** said that the question of whether Seven Lakes West can have home-delivery of mail needs to be resolved quickly. In addition, the Board needs to work with the long-range planning committee to develop a five-year plan and an integrated five-year budget, Meikle said.

Other short-term needs include the septic management system and continued attempts to improve the community's security.

Noting that "there will always be difficult issues," Meikle said that there will also always be residents who disagree with decisions

made by the Board. "Improving civility on the Board and in general meetings must be a goal," Meikle said

**Ed Tuton** identified five items that needed attention in the short-term:

1. Assess the adequacy of fire protection in the community, including planning for and installing more fire hydrants.
2. Developing written job descriptions and a formal performance appraisal process for the Community Manager and Association staff.
3. Develop a written code of ethics for Board members and staff.
4. Incorporate into the budgeting process "empirically derived financial projections" using, at minimum, a five-year projection.
5. Initiate a cost-benefit analysis to consider retaining the services of a professional management company. Tuton added under this point that it might be useful to explore reducing the size of the Board itself.

**Jim Haggard** said that he saw "a couple of big issues." He identified those as the need for

a comprehensive long-range plan and some final resolution of the mailhouse versus home delivery issue.

Haggard said that he had had many conversations with people in the community about whether Board work sessions should be open or closed.

"When I began, I thought I should keep an open mind on the question," Haggard said. "But events have led me to believe that it would be better to open the sessions . . . if what the Board says or does can't stand public scrutiny, maybe the Board shouldn't say or do those things."

## Implementing the vision

The moderator next asked candidates what ideas they had for implementing Seven Lakes West's vision statement which reads as follows:

"Seven Lakes West is a well maintained, safe and secure, dynamic residential community, diverse in population, activities and interest, emphasizing quality of life and maintenance of property values."

**Jim Meikle** said, "The vision statement is a characterization of what the community is currently and what it wants to be in the future." Noting that Seven Lakes West started out as an upscale

(See "Candidates' night," p. 36)

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# Candidates' night

(Continued from page 35)

retirement community, Meikle said it has become more and more of a family community.

"It's important that we provide amenities and recreational opportunities for folks of all ages and specifically for our children," Meikle said, mentioning the possibility of implementing sports activities for children.

Meikle said he hoped that the Board would be able to implement a plan to develop an in-house maintenance crew and facility. "We may have to phase that in," Meikle noted. "But it will give us better control over the work that is done and it will cost less."

**Ed Tuton** said the vision statement "defines where we want to be. The question is: how we get there?"

The community must set goals and then plan, manage, and monitor the process of "getting to where we want to be," Tuton said. He said the community must identify potential problems in advance rather than responding to them when they occur."

"The Board, with the help of the talent we have in this community," Tuton said, "can meet the challenges and help the community continue to be a pleasant, safe, and wonderful place to live."

**Jim Haggard** said his idea for implementing the vision is to "develop a multi-year integrated community master plan."

Such a plan would allow all the Board and the community to "know what you have to do and what you have to spend in order to implement the vision," Haggard's said, adding that it will be important to have periodic assessment milestones, "so we can determine whether we are on track or falling behind."

Haggard described a process in which the Board would periodically pull out one objective or another from its master plan, brief the community on that objective, and solicit community input on how to better achieve the objective.

**Kathy Kirst** said that achieving the vision spelled out in Seven Lakes West vision statement requires a close working relationship between the the Board and the Long-Range Planning committee. She noted that "Long-Range Planning has

already developed an initial list of projects to support this vision statement, and this list will continue to grow and change as the community progresses."

Kirst had said earlier in the evening that one of her primary reasons for seeking a seat on the Board was her concern that "a strong connection between long-range planning and the Board" is lacking.

"Because this community is growing so quickly," Kirst continued, "I think that we need to establish more working committees to interact with the Board and community. The challenges and issues that face our community have gotten more complex."

She added that any committees "need to be closely tied to the Board for overall management and continuity."

## Board communication

The fifth prepared question asked candidates how they feel about communications from the Board to SLWLA members.

**Ed Tuton** said "First I would make Board work sessions open to community members." He said it may be necessary to con-

fine members' comments in those sessions to a short period at either the beginning or end of meeting.

Tuton said it was also important to "ensure that meeting minutes accurately reflect what has happened," in Board meetings, including the rationale that any directors gave for the votes they cast.

Tuton said it was important to actively use the area representatives to better inform the Board about concerns in areas that they represent.

And, finally, he advocated establishing an electronic database that would include a wide range of information on homeowners.

"I have a two-part answer," **Jim Haggard** said. "The first part is that I think the Board does a good job of communicating about decisions after they have been made." However, Haggard said, he feels the Board is less effective communicating about issues before the decisions are made. He advocated exploring the possibility of publishing a "minority report" on major issues which were decid-

ed by a five-to-four vote of the Board.

Haggard said that he would open Board meetings — "If I'm elected, I want you looking over my shoulder, so you can tell me what I'm doing wrong." He also said the agenda of work sessions should be published three days prior to the meeting, and, finally, that the long-range planning documents should be easily accessible to residents, "so they can track performance to plan."

"I still feel there are some big disconnects in communications," **Kathy Kirst** said, noting that the Area Reps are under utilized in getting information out to the membership and in bringing information back to the Board.

She suggested that the Area Reps should report to a Board member — probably the secretary — rather than to the Community Manager.

Kirst said she would like to see more documents archived and accessible on the Seven Lakes West website, including a complete financial statement along with Board minutes.

Kirst said the association should begin the process of electronically archiving all its documents to preserve them for future Boards and landowners.

**Jim Meikle** noted that information about the community is available on the website in the newsletter and in *The Seven Lakes Times*.

The minutes of general sessions and work sessions are published promptly, Meikle said. He noted that the office staff and Board members are always available to discussion issues with landowners.

"Any time there's a controversial issue, the Board always provides the community with an opportunity for input and seriously considers that input," Meikle said.

The Board has conscientiously provided avenues of communication, Meikle argued, noting that the Board would take other ideas for improving communication under consideration.

(See "Candidates' night," p. 37)



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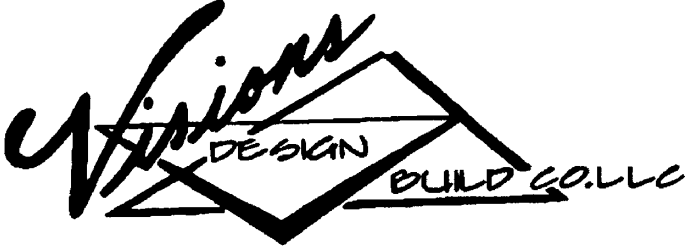
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Candidates’ night

(Continued from page 36)

Specific Improvements

The final prepared question asked candidates whether were any specific changes or improvements they would seek if elected.

**Jim Haggard** said that he would advocate opening the Board’s work sessions, expanding the role of the Long-Range Planning Committee, and expanding communications from the Board to the membership and vice versa.

He argued for an increased reliance on committees — “we have smart people in this community; we need to make use of them.”

He agreed that the community needs to develop a community database.

Haggard said the Board should make mandatory compliance with the West side’s sewage inspection program, noting that only 75 percent of landowners have complied with the program.

He said he would be in favor of regularly scheduled round-table issues forums that would allow all the community and Board members to explore hot button issues in a moderator-controlled environment. Haggard recently led such a session on the proposed a boat length and boat horsepower limitation rules.

**Kathy Kirst** said she hoped the next Board president would abide by Roberts Rules and display “the impartiality required of the presiding officer of an assembly” and would “preclude exercising the right to debate while presiding.”

Kirst charged that President Jim Meikle had not maintained his impartiality during the debate concerning whether to enter into an agreement with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

“I want our Board meetings to be conducted with business-like decorum that is respectful of all opinions,” Kirst wrote, “and to adhere to Robert Rules of Order.”

“There is always room for improvement,” **Jim Meikle** said noting that the audience had heard a number of different ideas about improvements that could be made.

“The Board generally deals with the day to day operation of the community,” Meikle said,

“while the long-range planning committee looks further ahead in the future.”

“The Board is always open to suggestions and willing to consider people’s thoughts,” Meikle said. “A lot of things the Board implements comes from suggestions from landowners.”

“Since I am interested in finance,” **Ed Tuton** said “I think an examination of the current financial controls is important.”

“An audit of the association books could pinpoint some areas that may require attention,” he added, noting that an audit can help identify new methods for financial control and disbursement.

Tuton also said that Board members should develop policy statements regarding their areas of responsibility and then develop implementation plans to carry out those policies.

**Audience Questions**

After the candidates had given their answers to the prepared questions, moderator Pud Kent asked a number of questions

that had been submitted in writing by audience members.

Here are a few highlights:

**Audit**

In answer to a question on whether the Board should have a formal audit of its books, Sales, speaking for **Kirst**, said she favored a complete audit stretching back to 2002, when the last audit was conducted, and then biennial audits in future years. **Haggard** took the same position.

**Tuton** agreed with more frequent audits, but said it might be difficult or impossible as a practical matter to extend an audit back over the past four years.

**Meikle** said the Board had already approved an audit for Fiscal Year 2006-2007. Noting that audits can be very expensive, he suggested that an audit should be conducted whenever a new association treasurer is appointed.

**Aquatic weed control**

Another question asked

whether candidates “would poison weeds in the lake?”

**Meikle**, who served as Lake and Environment Director when the Board first voted to apply the herbicide Diquat in some weed-choked coves, said the Board has adopted a policy of using herbicides only when weed growth prevents lakefront landowners from reaching their docks.

**Tuton** said he was generally against using herbicides, noting that he and his wife rake weeds as necessary in their cove.

**Haggard** said he understood the need to provide landowners with access to their docks, but was against anything that would “poison the lake.”

**Ballots**

Another question asked whether the SLWLA office staff should be responsible for handling ballots for the election, since they are “responsible to current Board members.”

**Meikle** noted that a panel of respected community members

— not the office staff — counts the ballots.

Both **Haggard** and **Tuton** said that an effort should be made to ensure that ballots are handled appropriately.

**Cooking with Carmella — Valentine Edition**

Seven Lakes Health and Fitness Center is sponsoring informational, healthy cooking demonstrations each month. “Cooking with Carmella” will continue through June at the North Clubhouse. These fun filled Saturday afternoons feature Carmella Chase and fresh, fast, and easy dishes along with healthy living tips by Majorie Nurnberg of Seven Lakes Health and Fitness.

On February 10, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, there will be a Valentine Theme. The cost for the class is only \$10.

For more information, call Majorie at 673-1180.



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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY.** Home located half way between Troy and Candor. 1.89 acres with three bedrooms & two baths. New family room and new roof added in 2000 ... **\$115,000**



**WATER, WATER!** 2BD, 2BA home on Lake Echo with in-ground swimming pool. Large family room, large living room, open kitchen, and storage/workshop under the house .....**\$219,000**

## GREAT SLCC GOLF FRONT!

**138 East Devonshire ..... REDUCED TO \$29,900**  
*Golf front on the SL Country Club course. Awesome view!*

**WATERFRONT ON LAKE AUMAN**

**110 Dennis Circle ..... \$260,000**  
*This waterfront lot sits in a cove with a wonderful view. Lot next door is also for sale.*

**112 Dennis Circle ..... \$250,000**  
*Waterfront cove lot, beautiful view and a good price.*

Seven Lakes Times

February 2, 2007

# CLASSIFIEDS

## ANTIQUES/PRIMITIVES BOUGHT/SOLD

**MEDLEYANNA'S** – of West End. Will buy, sell or trade. Call 673-JUNK (5865) or 947-3759, ask for Harriet or Jerry.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**EXECUTIVE SEC./ASSISTANT** – office in Seven Lakes. Part time approx. 20 hours/wk. Flexible schedule. Computer skills required: correspondence (Microsoft word), email, Internet, Quickbooks. Office mgmt. Taxes (minor) and workman's compensation. Significant event mgmt. Ideal for partially retired person or parent with school aged children. Send resume to: JFY, 3161 Seven Lakes West, West End, NC 27376. Questions: 336-260-2990.

## WANTED MISCELLANEOUS

**WANTED** – Seven Lakes West resident would like to lease dock space on Lake Auman for 20 ft pontoon boat. If interested, please call 673-2525.

## FOR SALE MISCELLANEOUS

**WICKER FURNITURE** – 5 pieces: love seat, 2 chairs, ottoman, end table. \$225. 673-3376.

**2000 TOYOTA TUNDRA LIMITED** – 4WD, auto, white, 63K miles, leather, side rails, tow pkg., bed liner. Exc. cond. \$15,775. Call 910-215-8400.

**RAINBOW – REXAIR** – water filtered vacuums. Sales, service, supplies. Shown by appointment in your home or our store. Cox Dist. 948-2926 or 246-2926.

## FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT** – Available now, high profile location. 720 sq. ft., Central Park Bldg, 1030 Seven Lakes Drive. Call 673-4800.

tfn 8/4

## FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

**PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT** – High profile location includes lobby, multiple offices, conference room, full kitchen, multiple bathrooms. 1035 Seven Lakes Drive. Available now. Call 910-673-1929.

### SEVEN LAKES WEST

Short Term rental - 3BR/2BA Overlooking pond. Call Wayne 910-295-2288 or Pat 910-673-5183.

**OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT** – Woodlawn Square next to West End Post Office. \$600/mo. Call 910-673-0004.

**CUSTOM BUILT LAKEVIEW HOME FOR RENT** – View the Sunrise! 3BR/2.5BA, GR,DR, Great Kitchen! Open Floor Plan, Lg. Master Suite, Walk-in closet, whirlpool & shower, Patio, yard maint. Inc. Non-smokers, no pets, one years lease, deposit and references required. \$1500 per month. 910-673-3603.

**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT** – Space available at the Executive Center. Call 910-673-1553.

**SEVEN LAKES SOUTH** – Golf front, beautiful 3BR/3BA, large living/dining combo, fireplace, Carolina Room, deck, nice master with fireplace. Possible lease option. 440-668-4767. *1tc 1/19*

**7 LAKES SOUTH GOLF FRONT** – 5BR/3.5BA, hardwood & new carpets, bonus room, enclosed Carolina Rm, large eat-in kitchen, formal dining, formal living, gas burning fireplace, Master w/walk-in shower, jacuzzi tub, fireplace, with private sitting area overlooking green. A/C in workshop, 2-car garage, attic storage. Green and pond views. 4500 sq. ft home, w/handicap access. 910-603-4746.

## FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

**7 LAKES SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB GOLF FRONT** – 3BR/2BA, with open floor plan, with lake and golf views. 2 car enclosed garage. Fenced yard. Owner will consider lease to own. Call 910-603-4746.

**7 LAKES SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB GOLF FRONT** – with green view, situated on 2 lots. 3BR/2BA, 2car garage, screened patio. Owner will consider lease to own. 910-603-4746.

## FOR RENT STORAGE BUILDINGS

**HILLCREST MINI WAREHOUSE, LLC** – Affordable storage in Seven Lakes. Units are located at 351 Grant Street, across from K.R. Mace Electric. Unit sizes – 10x10, 10x20. Units have lighting. Call 910-673-7320 for rental information. Urgent calls may be directed to 910-690-6491.

## FOR SALE REAL ESTATE

**FSBO SEVEN LAKES WEST** – 4/BR 3/bath house 3400 sq ft., hardwood & tile throughout, large bonus room and study upstairs. Large fenced in area in backyard. Irrigation system, hot tub and much more. Built in 2003. Call for more information. 910-639-4700.

**7 LAKES SOUTH GOLF FRONT** – 5BR/3.5BA, hardwood & new carpets, bonus room, enclosed Carolina Rm, large eat-in kitchen, formal dining, formal living, gas burning fireplace, Master w/walk-in shower, jacuzzi tub, fireplace, with private sitting area overlooking green. A/C in workshop, 2-car garage, attic storage. Green and pond views. 4500 sq. ft home, w/handicap access. 910-603-4746.

**Advertise in  
The Times**

## FOR SALE REAL ESTATE

**7 LAKES SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB GOLF FRONT** – 3BR/2BA, with open floor plan, w/lake and golf views. 2 car enclosed garage. Fenced yard. Owner will consider lease to own. 910-603-4746.

### FSBO — SEVEN LAKES WEST

Beautiful Lake Auman **Waterfront** Home. Spectacular Views. Magnificent Custom 3BR 2.5BA Contemporary Home. 12' ceilings, LR, DR, den/office, Carolina Rm, hardwood floors, split bdrms, bulkhead & dock. Beautifully landscaped. Many extras. **Reduced for quick sale.** Asking \$714,900 By Owner **(910) 673-1139** **Cell: (910) 690-6031** *Brokers Welcome*

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**SEVEN LAKES NORTH** – Several 4/3 BR houses for rent in Seven Lakes North. \$850 - \$1000 per month. Will consider lease option or purchase. Call 673-1108 or 673-1403.

## FOR SALE LOTS

**LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT LOT** – (3455A/3455B), located on Baker Circle, new bulkhead, current perk test. Call at Stephanie Hill Real Estate Services (910) 215-8400 or (910) 603-5678.

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FAX: (910) 673-0055

# CLASSIFIEDS

Seven Lakes Times

February 2, 2007

## FOR SALE LOTS

**SEVEN LAKES WEST** – Lot 3156 & 4107. Will be sold together. Priced at \$285,000. Great view. Call Fred Seufert at The Property Center 910-673-1724 or 1-800-334-7869. *tfn 9/29*

**SEVEN LAKES WEST** – Double lot 0.96 acre. 215/217 Longleaf Dr. Walking distance to BR Clubhouse. Nice pines. New perc. \$79,000. 910-673-2344.

## FOR SALE LOTS AND LAND

**6.5 ACRES MORGANWOOD** – Seven Lakes West. Picturesque equestrian lot with stream. A Must See. Asking \$127,900. All serious offers considered. Call Judy at The Property Center. 910-63-1724.

**13+ ACRES MORGANWOOD** at Seven Lakes West, horses permitted, cleared, established pastures & nice pond! \$24,900 per acre; **GOLF FRONT - FOXFIRE**, level, cleared building lot, spectacular views, \$38,500 OBO. **40 ACRES** bordering **Pinewild CC**, rolling Bermuda fields, large pond, owner/broker \$11,900 per acre. **TAMMY LYNE, BROKER** 910-235-0208. [www.Tammy-Lyne.com](http://www.Tammy-Lyne.com) or email: [MarketValue@Pinehurst.net](mailto:MarketValue@Pinehurst.net)

## BOATS FOR SALE

**BOATS FOR SALE** – Need a boat? Choplin's Got It! Ski-Wakeboard-Deck-Pontoon-Bass and Saltwater Boats. Full service to Seven Lakes area only a few minutes away. Choplin Marine in Sanford. Call 919-776-1004 or [www.choplinboats.com](http://www.choplinboats.com)

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